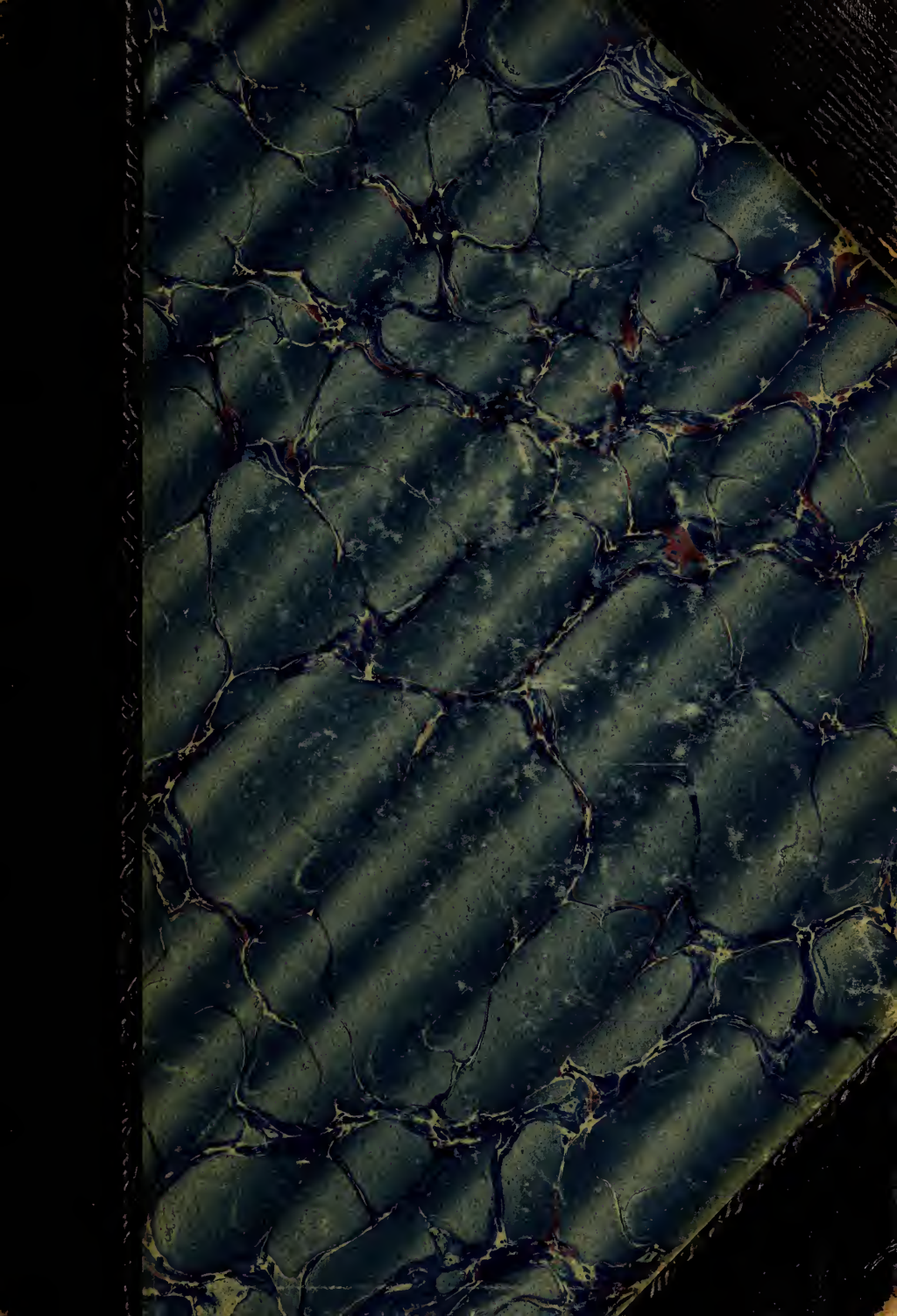
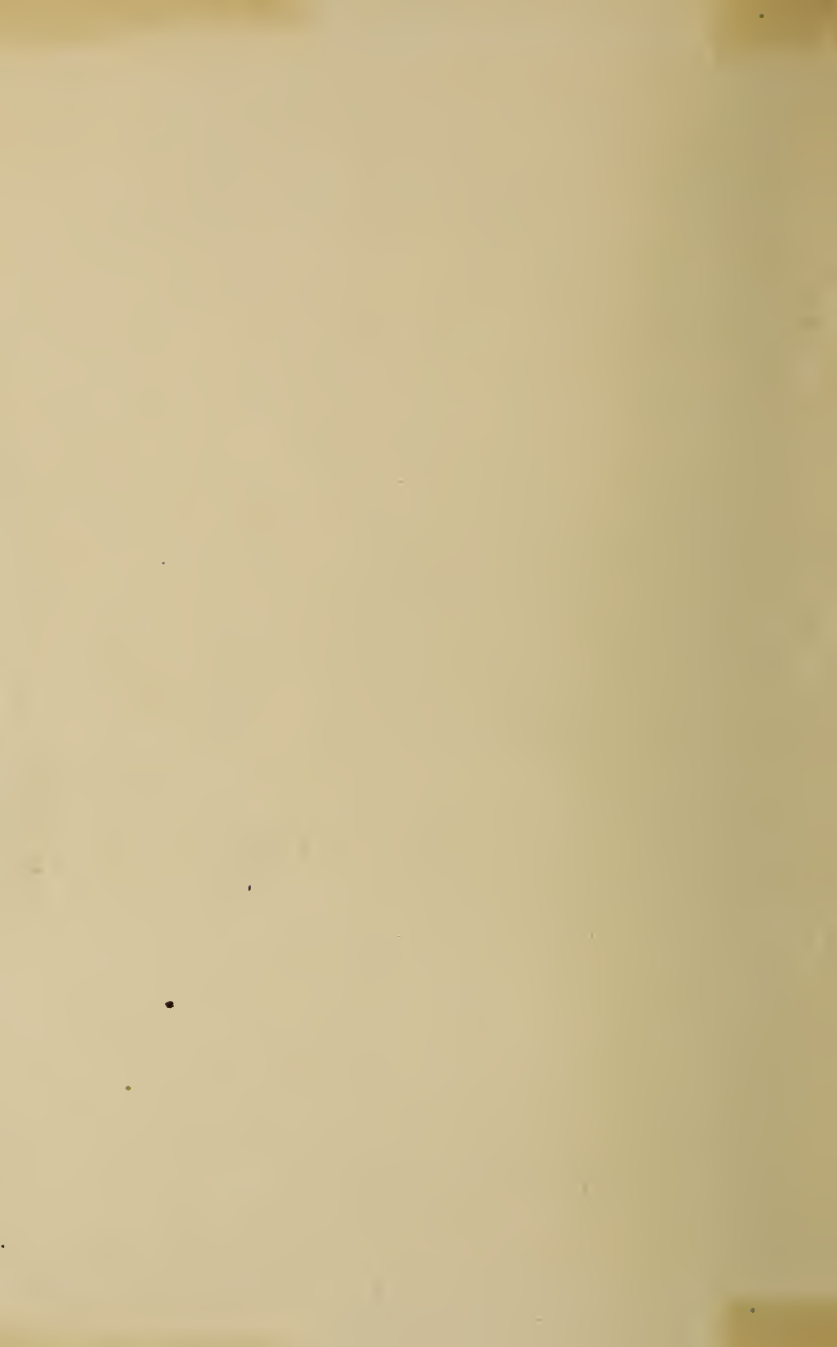








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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER
OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF CANADA

AT A SPECIAL CONVOCATION HELD IN THE CITY OF HAMILTON,
ON FRIDAY THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL, A. D. 1899,
A. I. 2429, AND

At the Forty-Second Annual Convocation.



HELD IN THE MASONIC TEMPLE, CITY OF
LONDON, ONT.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, A.D. 1900
A.I. 2430, A.L. 5900.

ORDERED TO BE READ IN ALL CHAPTERS AND PRESERVED

ADDRESS.

W. G. REID, Hamilton,
Grand Z.

GEO. J. BENNETT, Toronto,
Grand Scribe E.

Grand Chapter of Canada.

PROCEEDINGS

AT A SPECIAL CONVOCATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CANADA, HELD IN THE MASONIC HALL, IN THE CITY OF HAMILTON, ON FRIDAY, THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 1899; A I. 2429.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	W. G. Reid	Grand Z.	} Grand Council on The Throne.
R. " "	W. Gibson	Grand H.	
R. " "	A. Shaw	Grand J.	
R. " "	Geo. J. Bennett	Grand Scribe E.	
R. " "	W. Elliott	as Grand Scribe N.	
R. " "	L. K. Murton	Grand P. Sojourner.	
R. " "	Hugh Murray	Grand Treasurer.	
R. " "	J. C. Morgan	Grand Registrar.	
V. " "	W. Caw, M.D.	Grand 1st. Asst. Sojourner.	
" "	W. J. Grant	as Grand 2nd Asst. Sojourner.	
" "	F. Miller	as Grand Sword Bearer.	
" "	M. Gibbs	as Grand Master of 1st Veil.	
V. " "	R. H. Arthur, M.D.	Grand Master of 2nd Veil.	
R. " "	W. Walker	as Grand Master of 3rd Veil.	
" "	W. Teale	as Grand Master of 4th Veil.	
" "	N. B. Colcock	as Grand Standard Bearer.	
" "	W. A. Lyon	as Grand Dir. of Ceremonies.	
V. " "	W. E. Brown	Grand Organist.	
R. " "	J. W. Hickson	as Grand Pursuivant.	
R. " "	A. G. McWhinney	as Grand Steward.	
R. " "	Thomas M. Davis	as Grand Steward.	
V. " "	H. Wellbanks	as Grand Steward.	
V. " "	W. H. Best	as Grand Steward.	
" "	W. Tocher	Grand Janitor.	

together with a large number of First Second and Third Principals and Past Principals, members of Grand Chapter hailing from the several Chapters.

A Constitutional number of Chapters being represented, Grand Chapter was opened in AMPLE FORM at 3 o'clock p.m.

R. E. Comp. W. T. Toner, Chairman of the Committee on Credentials, presented the following report :

The Committee on Credentials of the special Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, held in the Masonic Hall, city of Hamilton, on Friday, April 7th, A.D. 1899, beg, to report that there are 96 warranted Chapters on the roll of Grand Chapter ; 27 are represented by their duly qualified officers ; 32 are represented by proxy ; 10 are not represented by proxy but have Past Principals present ; 27 are unrepresented in any way. There are 200 names registered, having a total of 371 votes.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

W. T. TONER,
Chairman.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. T. Toner and

Resolved,—That the report of the Committee on Credentials be received and adopted.

The Grand Scribe E. having read the summons calling this special Convocation, the M. Ex. the Grand Z. addressed the Companions as follows :

“ *Companions,*”

“As you are aware this special Convocation of Grand Chapter has been summoned for one special purpose, the election of a Grand Scribe E.

“At the election for this office during the annual Convocation last January in Stratford, a protest was made which led to the appointment of a Committee, who were instructed to investigate the legality of the ballots objected to, their duty being to report to me on that and all other matters in connection with the election of Grand Scribe E.

“In brief the Committee found that the ballots in question were not legally deposited and rejected them, thus leaving the matter a tie between the two Companions nominated. I thereupon called the Grand Council together and this special Convocation is the outcome of our unanimous decision.

“I am of opinion and decide that the only business that can be transacted is that for which the Convocation is called, namely, the election of a Grand Scribe E., and I am now ready to receive nominations.”

THE NOMINATIONS.

The following Companions were then nominated :—R.

E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, Toronto, by R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray ; R. E. Comp. W. J. Robertson, Port Hope, by R. E. Comp. R. Mahony Sr.

The M. E. the Grand Z. then appointed as scrutineers of the ballot M. E. Comps. J. Ross Robertson, M. Walsh and R. B. Hungerford, Past Grand Z's.

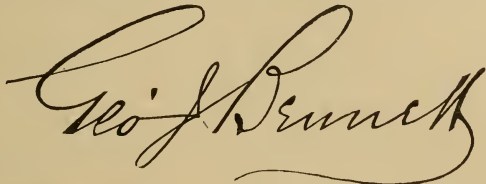
The ballots having been collected and counted, M. E. Comp. Robertson, chairman of the scrutineers announced the result as follows : Number of votes 371, necessary to a choice 186. Votes deposited for R. E. Comp. Bennett 240, for R. E. Comp. Robertson 131.

The M. E. the Grand Z. thereupon declared R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, duly elected the Grand Scribe E. of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

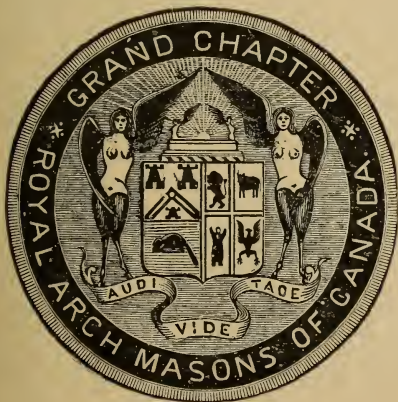
R. E. Comp. Bennett was then formally installed into office by the M. E. the Grand Z. and M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, Past Grand Z.

The business for which the special Convocation was summoned having been completed, Grand Chapter was closed in AMPLE FORM.

ATTEST



Grand Scribe E.



Grand Chapter of Canada.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CANADA, HELD IN THE MASONIC TEMPLE, CITY OF LONDON, ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH JANUARY, A.D. 1900, A.I. 2430.

PRESENT.

M.	E. Comp.	W. G. Reid	Grand Z.	} Grand Council on The Throne.
R.	"	W. Gibson	Grand H.	
R.	"	A. Shaw	Grand J.	
R.	"	Geo. J. Bennett	Grand Scribe E.	
R.	"	Chris. McLellan	Grand Scribe N.	
R.	"	Thos. Peters	as Grand Prin. Sojourner.	
R.	"	Hugh Murray	Grand Treasurer.	
R.	"	Alex. Smith	as Grand Registrar.	
V.	"	W. Caw, M.D.	Grand 1st Asst. Sojourner.	
"	"	W. J. Lake	as Grand 2nd Asst. Sojourner	
V.	"	Jonathan Greene	Grand Sword Bearer.	
"	"	J. G. Bottomley	as Grand Master 1st Veil.	
"	"	J. H. Spence	as Grand Master 2nd Veil.	
V.	"	C. F. Mansell	as Grand Master 3rd Veil.	
"	"	A. W. Findlay	as Grand Master 4th Veil.	
"	"	J. Thompson	as Grand Standard Bearer.	
"	"	J. W. Hickson	as Grand Dir. of Ceremonies.	
"	"	W. G. Coulter	as Grand Organist.	
"	"	W. J. McAllister	as Grand Pursuivant.	
"	"	J. W. Jones	as Grand Steward.	
"	"	Geo. Moore	as Grand Steward.	
"	"	J. A. Gauld	as Grand Steward.	
"	"	A. A. Campbell	as Grand Steward.	

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R.	E. Comp.	T. Peters, Walkerville	St. Clair	District, No. 1
R.	"	H. Roe, St. Thomas	London,	" " 2
R.	"	W. Kennedy, M. D., Vittoria	Wilton,	" " 3
R.	"	F. Walter Hamilton	Hamilton	" " 5
R.	"	C. Burch, St. Catharines	Niagara	" " 7
R.	"	D. Ponton, Toronto	Toronto	" " 8
R.	"	J. Whitten, Bracebridge	Georgian	" " 9
R.	"	J. R. Fitzgerald, Colborne	Ontario	" " 10
R.	"	S. A. Luke, Ottawa	Ottawa	" " 13

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

R. E. Comp.	C. A. Humber, Goderich.....	Arizona.
R. " "	A. Shaw, Kingston.....	Connecticut.
R. " "	T. C. Macnabb, Chatham.....	Delaware.
R. " "	Hugh Murray, Hamilton.....	Dist. of Columbia.
R. " "	A. B. Munson, London.....	Florida.
M. " "	R. B. Hungerford, London.....	Georgia.
R. " "	D. H. Martyn, M.D., Kincardine ...	Indian Territory.
R. " "	C. W. Postlethwaite, Toronto.....	Iowa.
R. " "	J. M. Gibson, Hamilton.....	Kansas.
R. " "	W. Walker, Toronto....	Kentucky.
R. " "	B. Allen, Toronto.....	Maine.
R. " "	R. G. W. Conolly, Dunnville... ..	Maryland.
R. " "	J. E. Harding, Lindsay.....	Massachusetts.
R. " "	W. Gibson, Beamsville.....	Missouri.
M. " "	J. Ross Robertson, Toronto.....	Nebraska.
R. " "	J. S. Dewar, London	New Hampshire.
R. " "	Jas. Wilson, Toronto.....	North Carolina.
R. " "	D. F. MacWatt, Sarnia	Quebec.
M. " "	M. Walsh, Ingersoll.....	Rhode Island.
R. " "	A. E. Cooper, London.	South Dakota.
M. " "	W. G. Reid, Hamilton.....	Victoria.
R. " "	Alex. Patterson, Toronto.....	Virginia.

A constitutional number of Chapters being represented by their qualified officers, the forty second annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada was opened in AMPLE FORM at 2 o'clock p.m.

R. E. Companion William Roaf, from the Committee on Credentials of Representatives, reported that there are 94 warranted Chapters and 2. U. D. on the roll of Grand Chapters, of which number 60 were represented by the following Companions :—

No. 1. *Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui, Kingston.*

R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 2. *The Hiram, Hamilton.*

E Comp. Geo. Moore, Z. ; R. E. Comps. Alex. Smith and Fred Walter, P. Z's.

No. 3. *St. John's, London.*

E. Comps. W. O'Brien, Z. ; O. Ellwood, H. ; John Graham, J. ; J. A. Gauld, W. J. Carson, Alex. Findlay, W. Stratford, J. D. Balfour, and R. E. Comps. J. S. Dewar and A. E. Cooper, P. Z's.

No. 4. *St. Andrew's and St. John's, Toronto.*

E. Comp. J. W. Jones, P. Z. and Proxy, V. E. Comp. C. A. Matthews and E. Comp. Joseph King, P. Z's.

- No. 5. St. George's, London.*
E. Comps. W. A. Buchner, Z. ; A. Ellis, A. A. Campbell, R. E. Comps. J. W. Butler, A. G. Smythe, A. G. McWhinney, A. B. Munson, and M. E. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, P. Z's.
- No. 6. St. John's, Hamilton.*
E. Comps. J. T. Wilson, Z., and W. J. McAllister ; R. E. Comps. W. Gibson, W. Birrell, H. Murray, J. M. Gibson, and M. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, P. Z's.
- No. 8. King Solomon's, Toronto.*
E. Comps. E. M. Carleton, Z. ; J. A. Carveth, H. ; R. E. Comp. Alex. Patterson and M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, P. Z's.
- No. 15. Wawanosh, Sarnia.*
E. Comp. J. A. McKenzie, P. Z.
- No. 16. Carleton, Ottawa*
R. E. Comp. S. A. Luke, P. Z.
- No. 18. Oxford, Woodstock.*
E. Comp. F. C. Bartlett, H.
- No. 19. Mount Moriah, St. Catharines.*
R. E. Comps. Chas. Burch, P. Z. and Proxy, Geo. Burch, P. Z.
- No. 20. Mount Horeb, Brantford.*
E. Comp. J. H. Spence, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 23. Ezra, Simcoe.*
E. Comp. J. G. Bottomley, Z. ; R. E. Comp. W. Kennedy, P. Z.
- No. 24. Tecumseh, Stratford.*
R. E. Comp. Chris. McLellan, P. Z. and Proxy ; M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding and E. Comp. J. E. Sanagan, P. Z's.
- No. 27. Manitou, Collingwood.*
R. E. Comp. W. T. Toner, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 28. Pentalpha, Oshawa.*
E. Comp. E. O. Felt, Z. and P. Z. ; R. E. Comp. A. E. Henry, P. Z.
- No. 29. McCallum, Dunnville.*
R. E. Comp. R. G. W. Conolly, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 30. Huron, Goderich.*
E. Comp. A. Lawson, Z. and P. Z. ; R. E. Comp. C. A. Hum-
ber, P. Z.

- No. 31. *Prince Edward, Picton.*
E. Comp. J. H. Colden, Z. ; R. E. Comp. J. Waring, P. Z.
- No. 34. *Signet, Barrie.*
R. E. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 36. *Corinthian, Peterboro'.*
E. Comp. Alex. Gibson, H.
- No. 37. *Victoria, Port Hope.*
E. Comps. J. W. Sanders, Z., E. J. W. Burton, W. G. Coulter,
and R. E. Comp. W. J. Robertson, P. Z's.
- No. 40. *Guelph, Guelph.*
R. E. Comp. R. Mahony, Sr., P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 41. *Harris, Ingersoll.*
M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 45. *Excelsior, Colborne.*
R. E. Comp. J. R. Fitzgerald, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 47. *Wellington, Chatham.*
E. Comp. Thos. Scollard, Z.
- No. 48. *St. Johns, Cobourg.*
R. E. Comp. R. J. Craig, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 52. *Prince Rupert Winnipeg.*
R. E. Comp. John Leslie, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 53. *Bruce, Petrolea.*
V. E. Comp. John Sinclair, P.Z and Proxy.
- No. 54. *Palestine, St. Thomas.*
E. Comp. C. E. Edwards, Z. ; V. E. Comp. W. E. Idsardi, R. E.
Comps. S. Dubber and H. Roe, P. Z's.
- No. 59. *Sussex, Brockville.*
V. E. Comp. Jonathan Greene, P. Z.
- No. 62. *York, Eglinton.*
R. E. Comp. W. Roaf, P. Z. and Proxy, E. Comp. H. Southby,
P. Z.
- No. 63. *Havelock, Kincardine.*
R. E. Comp. De Witt H. Martyn, P. Z. and Proxy.

- No. 65. *St. Paul's, Toronto.*
R. E. Comps. B. Allen, P. Z. and Proxy, G. F. Shepley, C. W. Postlethwaite and Douglas Ponton, P. Z's.
- No. 66. *The Malloch, Seaforth.*
E. Comp. L. C. Jackson, H.
- No. 69. *Grimsby, Grimsby.*
E. Comp. R. Lipsit, H. ; R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, P. Z.
- No. 70. *Grand River, Bracebridge.*
R. E. Comp. Jas. Whitten, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 72. *Keystone, Stirling.*
E. Comp. J. Earl Halliwell, Z. and P. Z.
- No. 73. *Erie, Ridgeway.*
E. Comps. John Murray, Z. ; G. W. Moody, H. ; J. G. Crosby,
R. E. Comps. S. S. Willison and G. Middleditch, P. Z's.
- No. 75. *St. Clair, Milton.*
R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 76. *Mount Nebo, Niagara Falls South.*
E. Comp. Richard Sloggett, P. Z.
- No. 77. *Occident, Toronto.*
E. Comps. L. H. Luke, J. ; J. J. Thompson, R. E. Comps.
J. E. Hetherington, James Wilson and J. W. Hickson, P. Z's.
- No. 78. *Minnewawa, Parkhill.*
E. Comp. Geo. Sutherland and V. E. Comp. W. Caw, P. Z's.
- No. 80. *Ark, Windsor.*
R. E. Comp. Thos. Peters, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 81. *Aylmer, Aylmer.*
E. Comps. W. N. Burgess, P. Z. and Proxy ; W. J. Fear, P. Z.
- No. 83. *Ionic, Orangeville.*
E. Comp. J. A. Glover, H.
- No. 88. *Macnabb, Dresden.*
R. E. Comp. T. C. Macnabb, P. Z.
- No. 91. *Antiquity, Toronto.*
E. Comps. W. J. A. Lake, Z. ; J. C. Gray, V. E. Comp. C. F. Mansell, R. E. Comps. G. J. Bennett and W. Walker, P. Z's.

- No. 94. *Midland, Lindsay.*
E. Comp. J. W. Wallace, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 95. *Tuscan, Sudbury.*
R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 98. *Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C.*
M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, Proxy.
- No. 100. *St. Lawrence, Brockville.*
E. Comp. W. H. Mowat, Z.
- No. 106. *Alberta, Calgary, N.W.T.*
M. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Proxy.
- No. 113. *Covenant, Cornwall.*
E. Comp. N. J. Fraed, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 114. *Bonnechere, Renfrew,*
E. Comp. N. W. Cleary, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 117. *Berlin, Berlin.*
E. Comp. A. B. Campbell, H. ; R. E. Comp. A. Oelschlager, P. Z.
- No. 118. *North Star, Edmonton, N.W.T.*
R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, Proxy.
- No. 120. *Kootenay, Kaslo, B.C.*
M. E. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, Proxy.
- No. 122. *Rossland, Rossland, B.C.*
R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, Proxy.

Thirty-four Chapters were unrepresented. Number of names registered 119. Number of votes entitled to be cast 265.

On motion of R. E. Comp. W. Roaf, seconded by R. E. Comp. D. H. Martyn, the report of the Committee on Credentials of Representatives was received and adopted.

Grand Chapter was then called from labour to refreshment.

It was announced that the Mayor of the City of London was in waiting and desired to welcome the delegates.

The Grand Scribe E was directed to retire and introduce His Worship Mayor Roundall, who was received by the dele-

gates standing. In a brief and kindly speech the Chief Magistrate expressed the pleasure it gave to himself and the citizens generally to welcome so distinguished a body of Masons, and trusted that their sojourn in the Forest City would be pleasant and profitable.

M. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Grand Z., acknowledged the civic courtesy in well chosen words, after which His Worship withdrew.

Grand Chapter then resumed labour.

The M. E. the Grand Z. granted permission for the admission of all Royal Arch Masons in good standing, during the sessions of Grand Chapter as visitors.

The Grand Scribe E. read the rules and regulations for the government of Grand Chapter during business. The Grand Scribe E. commenced to read the minutes of the proceedings of the forty-first Annual Convocation, held in the City of Stratford, on the 25th day of January, A.D. 1899, A.I. 2429, when it was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That as the proceedings of the last Annual Convocation, held on the 25th day of January, 1899, have been printed, and copies thereof sent to all the Chapters under this jurisdiction, the recorded minutes be considered as read, and the same be now confirmed.

The Grand Scribe E. then read the minutes of a Special¹ Convocation of Grand Chapter held in the City of Hamilton, on the 7th day of April, A.D. 1899, and summoned for the purpose of electing a Grand Scribe E, when it was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the minutes of the Special Convocation held on the 7th day of April last, in the City of Hamilton, be confirmed as read.

The M. E. the Grand Z. then read the following

ADDRESS.

To the M. E the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Companions :

An eventful year has just closed and we have entered upon another that already gives promise of being big with fate. The mother-land in the interests of her subjects in South Africa is embroiled in a war with the so-called Dutch republics whose methods have ever been a hindrance to progress and civilization. For a season she hesitated to take advantage of the proffer of aid from Canada and the other loyal colonies, but when the call did come it was responded to with enthusiastic alacrity, and already we have despatched over two thousand of our gallant sons to that dark continent where, if stern necessity demands, they are willing to cement the bond of imperial unity with their life's blood.

Among that noble body of volunteers are not a few brethren and Companions for whose success our hopes are keen and for whose safe home-coming with the rest of their brave comrades in arms, we to-day offer up to the God of peace and war a fervent appeal. May the protecting arm of the Great I AM be ever about them in the hour of peril. May His blessing rest upon and sustain them ; and when it pleases Him to stay the terrible conflict may it be said that the shadow of war's grim terrors has passed by the Canadian homes that wait anxiously for the absent loved ones.

The gaps in our ranks remind us that we should not forget that the days of our earthly sojourn are numbered. In welcoming you, Companions, to this our forty-second Annual Convocation, it is forcibly brought home to us that many Companions who were alive and well a year ago are now no more and are awaiting the command to circle round the great white throne on that day when all are summoned to receive wages.

Those of us who have been in attendance at these convocations for many years past must be aware that we have, at the most, but a few more—possibly, not another—to participate in before we, too, must rest from our labors. At every annual gathering we miss some Companions with whom we have been associated in close fraternal ties, and whose memories will ever be held dear, who have finished their course

here below, to enter into the rest of the celestial Sanhedrim above. Peace to their ashes ; and may their memories ever be held by us in fraternal remembrance.

“ Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud ?
Like a swift-fleeting meteor, a fast-flying cloud,
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,
Man passeth from life to his rest in the grave.”

On February 2nd last there passed away at Dunnville a devoted worker in the person of R. E. Companion Louis A. Congdon, Past Grand Superintendent and Grand Registrar of the Grand Lodge of Canada. The call was sudden and the sorrow proportionately great. Companion Congdon was in every respect a worthy Mason and citizen. His loss is keenly felt among those with whom he co-operated in blue lodge and Chapter. His funeral, which I attended, accompanied by R. E. Comp. Wm. Gibson, Grand H , was one of the largest ever seen in that vicinity, and testified to the high esteem in which the deceased Companion was held, not only by the Craft, but by his fellow townsmen.

Another sudden call was that of R. Ex. Companion J. M. Munro, of Almonte, Grand Superintendent of the Ottawa district. He was tending, as was his daily wont, the flowers in the garden attached to his pretty home on May 9th, when he was stricken. Companion Munro was a consistent Mason and his work in lodge and Chapter for many years is evidence of his great love for the ancient Craft. R. E. Companion W. B. McArthur, Past Grand Superintendent, represented the Grand Z. at the funeral on May 11th.

From our sister jurisdictions of the United States I have through the Grand Scribe E. received notice of the deaths of the following illustrious Companions, many of whose names are familiar to the Companions of this jurisdiction :

James A. Hawley, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.

Samuel Peete, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas.

John Moses Price, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Kansas.

James H. VanHoose, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas.

Seranus Bowen, M.D., Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts.

William Story Foster, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

Asa W. Blakesley, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.

Henry S. Strange, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Oregon.

Geo. M. Stroud, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Oregon.

James A. Henry, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the State of Arkansas.

William Robert Bowen, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

Chas. C. Kiefer, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

Thomas I. Wilder, Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Dakota.

William James Rhodes, Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

Horace Spencer Winslow, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Iowa.

Walter M. Wright, Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of the State of Massachusetts.

Charles R. Bagg, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of Michigan.

James Brewster Austin, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Missouri.

James Henry Welsh, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Connecticut.

Haston Twomey, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of Texas.

Isaac LaRue Johnson, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

Shortly after assuming the responsibilities of this exalted position, and owing to an irregularity in the balloting at the last Annual Convocation, it was found necessary, after consultation with the members of the Grand Council, to summon a Special Convocation of Grand Chapter at Hamilton on the 7th

April last, for the purpose of electing a Grand Scribe E. Those who questioned the wisdom of that decision must have had their doubts swept away when they saw the response made to the summons. It was probably the largest meeting of Grand Chapter in its history, and not only justified the decision but proved that the Companions generally had the welfare of the Royal Craft at heart. Of the result I will merely say, and without for one moment desiring to draw any distinction, that it was a most happy one for your Grand Z., and those of you who have had dealings in the interval, whether by correspondence or otherwise, with the choice of that Convocation, will bear me out in the statement that no more prompt, accurate and obliging Companion ever filled that official position than your present Grand Scribe E. For myself I owe him a deep debt of gratitude. His all-round knowledge has in several cases made an otherwise rough road a smooth one and straightened out difficult tangles that might have resulted in complications. I congratulate Grand Chapter on possessing such an officer.

CONDITION OF THE ROYAL CRAFT.

Before proceeding to detail to you my official acts, let me state that our Royal Craft is enjoying a period of steady prosperity. Of course in such a vast territory as we at present possess there must be weak spots, but what has been done in the past and what I hope may be accomplished in the future will do much to lessen these temporary evidences of weakness. The ceremonial working of the Chapters, and I have witnessed a good deal of it, I will not dilate upon. That feature I leave to your devoted Superintendents who have nobly assisted in the great and glorious undertaking, and whose reports will completely cover the ground; but this I will say, that my numerous visits to private Chapters have convinced me of the undoubted strength of our institution as a cementing influence. I have everywhere found the spirit of true brotherhood, and, except in one or two solitary instances where little jealousies exercised a brief sway, and perhaps retarded progress for a time, I have witnessed only good fellowship and an ever increasing desire to help one another along in the battle of life.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

On March 10th I visited Harris Chapter, No. 41, Ingersoll, accompanying the committee appointed by Grand Chapter to procure and present a testimonial to our esteemed Past

Grand Z., M. E. Companion Walsh. There was a large attendance of Companions from the local and adjacent Chapters, and the enthusiasm manifested on the occasion was a genuine tribute to the value of your Past Grand Z.

April 28th.—Visited St. George's Chapter, No. 5, London, and saw the Royal Arch degree conferred in excellent manner upon three candidates. There was a large number present, including many veterans of the Craft and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

May 8th.—Accompanied by Grand Superintendent Peters I visited Ark Chapter. No. 80, Windsor. There was no work, but several applications were received. The apartments and equipment were complete, and everything pointed to success.

May 10th.—Accompanied by R. E. Companions Shaw, Grand J., D. Ponton, Grand Superintendent, and the Grand Scribe E., I visited St. Paul's Chapter, No. 65, Toronto, when the membership centenary was celebrated. The work of the Royal Arch degree was impressively rendered. Your Grand Officers were most hospitably received.

May 17th.—R. E. Companion Peters, Grand Superintendent, accompanied me on an official visit to Prince of Wales Chapter, No. 71, Amherstburg. The M. M. M. Degree was exemplified in a most careful manner. The evidences of revival here are encouraging.

May 18th.—The Royal Arch degree was conferred on my visit to Wellington Chapter, No. 47, Chatham. Signs of activity were not wanting here; the Chapter has an earnest set of officers and the outlook is good. I was again accompanied by R. Ex. Companion Peters.

June 6th.—With R. E. Companion Walter, Grand Superintendent, and a number of Companions from Hamilton, I visited White Oak Chapter, No. 104, Oakville, and found it well officered and in good condition. We were most cordially received.

June 8th.—Grand Superintendent Henry Roe and many others were present to welcome me on my visit to Palestine Chapter, No. 54, St. Thomas. Two brethren received the M. M. M. degree. This is one of the flourishing Chapters in the London district.

June 9th.—Most creditably did Alymer Chapter, No. 81, confer the M. M. M. degree on the occasion of my visit to Alymer. Grand Superintendent Roe was again present.

Aug. 17th.—Visited Grimsby Chapter, No. 69, Grimsby,

and was pleased to see such evidences of increasing prosperity. This Chapter has added some 21 members to its roll during the year.

Sept. 12th.—Attended a Chapter of Instruction under the auspices of Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui Chapter, No. 1, Kingston. It was excellently arranged, with Grand Superintendent W. Thomson in charge.

Sept. 29th.—In company with the Grand Scribe E., I visited Mount Moriah Chapter, No. 19, St. Catharines, and was gratified at witnessing a most perfect rendering of the Royal Arch degree. The appointments of this Chapter are of the best and the attendance of the Companions above the average. R. E. Companion Burch, Grand Superintendent, takes a most active interest in its welfare.

Oct. 5th.—I visited York Chapter, No. 62, Eglinton, accompanied by Grand Superintendent Ponton and Grand Scribe E. Bennett. The work of the Royal Arch degree was accurately presented by R. E. Companion Fisher and a well-posted corps of officers. We had a very fraternal reception.

Oct. 8th.—Visited King Solomon's Chapter, No. 8, Toronto. The Ex. Z. was not present but the officers and Companions made the evening profitable and pleasant for myself, the Grand Scribe E., and other Companions who accompanied me.

Oct. 10th.—My visit to Signet Chapter, No. 34, Barrie, was very enjoyable. This chapter possesses elegant quarters, and the work in all its grades is of first-class quality.

Oct. 13th.—Visited Mount Nebo Chapter, No. 76, Drummondville, and was received in a most fraternal and hospitable manner. This Chapter has lately evinced a desire to get to the front rank.

Oct. 17th.—Attended a Chapter of Instruction under the auspices of the Malloch Chapter, No. 66, of Seaforth. There was a very gratifying attendance from the Chapters of the district, and the work under the careful eye of Grand Superintendent W. Elliott, was carefully rendered.

Oct. 13th.—My visit to Waterloo Chapter, No. 32, at Galt, was a very pleasant one. The Companions prepared a nice welcome and I was pleased to see the Royal Arch degree so perfectly worked. The Chapter is well officered and promises a prosperous future.

Nov. 14th.—St. Clair Chapter, No. 75, Milton, had been for some years apathetic. It is now doing well, and gives

encouraging hope for an active future. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit.

Nov. 15th.—My visit to Keystone Chapter, No. 72, Stirling, brought out a large gathering of Companions desirous of doing honor to the Grand Z. Ex. Companion, Dr. Meiklejohn has done much to make this Chapter take a foremost place. The Royal Arch degree was splendidly worked.

Nov. 17th.—On the occasion of my visit to McCallum Chapter, No. 29, Dunnville, the veteran founder of the Chapter, Senator McCallum, presented his Companions with an oil portrait of himself. There was a large attendance of distinguished Companions, including the Grand H. R. Ex. Companion, W. Gibson. The M. M. M. degree was faultlessly exemplified.

Nov. 20th.—Visited Antiquity Chapter, No. 91, Toronto, and received a truly fraternal welcome. This Chapter is in a very prosperous condition, and has among its members some of the bright lights in Royal Arch Masonry.

Nov. 21st.—The R. E. Grand Superintendent, J. R. Fitzgerald, was with me when I visited Corinthian Chapter, No. 36, Peterboro', and with him were a number of Companions from Port Hope and Colborne. The Royal Arch degree was most accurately rendered. The evidences of prosperity here were abundant.

Nov. 24th.—Attended the annual convocation of the Hiram Chapter, No. 2, Hamilton. The Royal Arch degree was conferred in excellent manner. This is one of the pioneer Chapters.

Dec. 1st.—Did not see any work at my visit to Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 20, Brantford, but they had a number of candidates to come forward. There is every indication here of an active future.

Dec. 6th.—Accompanied by R. E. Companion, W. Gibson, Grand H., I visited Havelock Chapter No. 63, Kin-cardine, and passed a very pleasant evening with these enterprising Companions.

Dec. 8th.—The M. M. M. degree was excellently worked at my visit to Guelph Chapter, No. 40, Guelph. The officers are enthusiastic, and I look for great things of this Chapter in the future.

Dec. 12th.—Saw the Royal Arch degree conferred in capital manner by the Past Principals of St. John's Chapter,

No. 6, Hamilton. On this occasion I was accompanied by R. E. Companions, W. Gibson, Grand H.; A. Shaw, Grand J.; Fred Walter, Grand Superintendent; G. J. Bennett, Grand Scribe E., and Hugh Murray, Grand Treasurer. This is the banner Chapter of the jurisdiction.

Dec. 15th.—Visited St. Andrews and St. John's Chapter, No. 4, Toronto, and saw the Royal Arch degree exemplified in perfect manner. I was most hospitably received.

Dec. 28th.—With the R. E. the Grand J., Grand Scribe E. and Grand Superintendent, I visited Orient Chapter, No. 79, Toronto, and received a most cordial greeting from a large gathering of the Companions. This Chapter is well officered and is prospering.

CHAPTERS IN THE FAR WEST.

It would have given me extreme pleasure, Compansions, to have extended my visitations far beyond our own Province, especially to those Chapters in Manitoba and British Columbia, where our Companions have for so long a time desired a visit from one or more of the chief officers of this grand body; but, with such a great territory to cover, you will easily see that there is more than one difficulty to surmount. Some six months ago I learned that my old friend and brother, Companion E. C. Davies, of Toronto, was about to pay a business visit to the coast. Talking certain matters over with him in connection with our Craft there, he cheerfully undertook to see the Companions in the several centres, and interest them in the work of Capitular Masonry. The newspapers of the coast and mining cities have duly chronicled his doings in our behalf. I will not, and chiefly at his own request, enlarge upon them, but I cannot refrain from saying that, at the sacrifice of much valuable time and no little personal inconvenience, he has assisted to pave the way for a brighter future in the golden west. To say that I thank him would be but a poor recognition of his services, but I can do no more. I feel sure Grand Chapter will join with me in an expression of gratitude to our worthy Companion.

NEW CHAPTERS.

On the 11th November last applications were received from Companions resident in Nelson, B.C., and New Westminster, B.C., for permission to institute Chapters in those cities. The recommendations of the nearest Chapters, viz

Kootenay, at Kaslo, and Vancouver, at Vancouver, having been unanimously granted, and the Grand Superintendent having endorsed the same, I instructed the Grand Scribe E. to prepare the necessary letters of dispensation, which were duly forwarded, and I have no doubt that from both of these thriving cities we will learn that the seed has been planted in fruitful soil.

SURRENDER OF CHARTER.

At the last Annual Convocation the report of the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry it was stated that Exeter Chapter, No. 85, was dead and only awaited burial. In the following April the Chapter summoned a special Convocation, and in regular form decided to surrender the charter. On the 17th of the same month the Grand Scribe E. reported to me that he had received the warrant, seal and books.

I have also learned from the same source that the membership of Signet Chapter, No. 105, Winnipeg, had recently decided to throw in their lot with the older Chapter, Prince Rupert, No. 52, believing that one strong Chapter would better the interests of the Royal Craft in the Prairie City. R. E. Comp Enderton has forwarded, together with the charter and minute book of Signet Chapter, a very full explanatory report of the proceedings leading up to the amalgamation, all of which was carried on in the utmost harmony and with a unanimous conviction that in unity there would be strength.

DECISIONS.

But little has been submitted to me for ruling that could not be decided by reference to our Constitution. Two, however, may here be specified.

1. A Chapter in the western district asked permission to confer the degrees upon a brother who had recently become a permanent resident of their town, but who received the Blue Lodge degrees in a United States city only a few months previously.

I held that the consent of the Chapter where he hailed from should first be obtained, and likewise the approval of the Grand High Priest of the jurisdiction in which that Chapter is situated.

2. A brother was balloted for in a Chapter recently and accepted. Before he could come forward for his degrees a Companion lodged a protest against his advancement, and the First Principal thereupon stayed further proceedings. Asked if the action of the First Principal was correct.

I replied that a single objection was equivalent to a black ball, but unsupported, it was not sufficient under the by-law, to bar the applicant. If, however, the First Principal, or any other Companion, sustained the objection there was nothing further to be done.

DISPENSATIONS ISSUED.

During the year I issued to some thirty or more Chapters dispensations as follows : To six permission to meet in other halls, or on other than their stated convocations, for installation or other legitimate purposes ; to nine to wear Royal Arch clothing at divine service and funerals, and to eighteen to instal in higher offices Companions who had not served in the chair immediately below. All the applications were supported by good and sufficient reasons.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

During the year I recommended the following :

R. E. Companion William Walker, Toronto, to represent the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

R. E. Companion G. T. Greenhill, Windsor, to represent the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

R. E. Companion J. M. Gibson, Hamilton, to represent the Grand Chapter of Kansas.

R. E. Companion W. B. Munson, London, to represent the Grand Chapter of Florida ; and

R. E. Companion R. G. W. Conolly, Dunnville, to represent the Grand Chapter of Maryland, all near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I also had much pleasure in signing the appointments of :

R. E. Companion J. D'Amer Drew, Melbourne, to represent the Grand Chapter of Canada near the Grand Chapter of Victoria.

R. E. Companion J. R. Bellinger, to represent the Grand Chapter of Canada near the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

R. E. Companion Andrew P. Swanstrom, to represent the Grand Chapter of Canada near the Grand Chapter of Minnesota.

CHAPTER BY-LAWS.

I have approved new and revised by-laws or sanctioned amendments to existing codes of the following Chapters :

King Solomon's, No. 8, Toronto.
North Star, No. 118, Edmonton, Alta.
Orient, No. 79, Toronto.
Ark, No. 80, Windsor.
Excelsior, No. 45, Colborne.
Alberta, No. 106, Calgary, Alta.
Harris, No. 41, Ingersoll.
Rossland, No. 122, Rossland, B.C.
Corinthian, No. 36, Peterboro'.
Kootenay, No. 120, Kaslo, B.C.
Grenville, No. 22, Prescott.

THE M.E.M. DEGREE.

Through the Grand Scribe E. a memorial has been presented to this Grand Council, praying for a restoration of the ceremonies in the M.E.M. degree as they existed prior to the revision of the work some few years ago. This memorial originated with Orient Chapter, No. 79, Toronto, and is signed by its First Principal, E. Comp. E. Herbert Briggs. This Chapter, it appears, communicated with all the other Chapters of the jurisdiction on the subject and has received replies from 38, or a little over a third of the number.

While the desire, as expressed by these 38, or more, is in close harmony with the prayer of the petition, a fact in its favor which must be admitted, yet the conditions which govern the custody of "the work" are of too serious a nature for your Grand Council to take decided action without the consideration which so important an undertaking demands, and especially when such a large proportion of the Chapters have hesitated to express an opinion on the matter. I would therefore recommend that the memorial be entrusted to the Grand Council of the ensuing year, its members to consult with any, or all of the Past Grand Z's. as they may decide and report to Grand Chapter at next Annual Convocation.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENT.

Owing to the lamented death of R. E. Companion, J. M. Munro, of Almonte, the Ottawa district was left without a Grand Superintendent. After carefully weighing the matter

and from sure information received, I entrusted the responsibility to Ex. Companion Sidney A. Luke, of the city of Ottawa, and from what I have learned my confidence was not misplaced.

VISIT TO BOSTON.

Most cordial invitations were received by the principal officers of this Grand Chapter to attend the centenary celebration at Boston of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, on the 24th October last. The Grand Council conferred and decided that I should represent the Grand Chapter of Canada on that important occasion. This great Masonic jubilee was in every way worthy of the city in which it was held—"the cradle of Royal Arch Masonry on this continent"—and as your representative I was accorded a right "royal welcome. The only other Canadian representative present was the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.

The Boston brethren took advantage of the occasion to dedicate their new temple, a sixteen-story building, and nine hundred brethren sat down at a banquet spread in the regular banqueting hall, thirty feet below the level of the sidewalk.

Your Grand Z. will always entertain the most pleasant memories of the truly fraternal welcome he received, and the kind words for Canada he heard on all sides.

CONCLUSION.

Companions : I have tried to do my best in your interests. Perhaps, I might have done more had I been able to devote the time from business, but the Grand Chapter was my first and only care when that was done. I have been supported most ably by my colleagues on the Grand Council, by the faithful Grand Superintendents, and by the Grand Scribe E., to whose devotion and zeal not a little of our present happy condition this year is due. I thank you, Companions, with all my heart, for the honor you have paid me. It is one that carries with it great responsibility, and I have endeavored to live up to it. I pray that the blessing of the Most High may rest upon you and upon the labors of this Convocation.

A. G. Reid

January 24,
1900

Grand Z

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—'That the address of the M. E. the Grand Z. be referred to the Executive Committee to report thereon during the present Convocation of Grand Chapter.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS.

The reports of the Grand Superintendents of Districts were then presented.

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT, No. 1.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry for the year 1899, in the St. Clair District, No. 1, which is composed of six Chapters, as follows: Wellington Chapter, No. 47, Chatham; Prince of Wales, No. 71, Amherstburg; Erie, No. 73, Ridgetown; Ark, No. 80, Windsor; Macnabb, No. 88, Dresden; King Cyrus, No. 119, Leamington.

Capitular Masonry in this District is improving, although the increase in membership in some of the Chapters has not been as great as might be expected. However, I think that the Royal Craft in this District may be said to be in a fairly good and prosperous condition.

On 16th February I visited King Cyrus Chapter No. 119, when I was accompanied by Comp. E. C. Russell, Second Principal of Ark Chapter, No. 80. At this Convocation I installed the officers, after which the Royal Arch degree was conferred on five candidates. This degree was exemplified in a very satisfactory manner. On the 11th October I again saw this Chapter on an official visit, when there was a good attendance. I had the pleasure of witnessing the conferring of the Supreme degree of the H. R. A., which was simply perfect. Opportunity here permits me to mention that King Cyrus is only in its infancy; it has Ex. Comp. Coulson as Z. and it has an exceptionally painstaking Scribe E. in the person of Comp. Jas. S. Greenhill. With the enthusiasm of all the other officers and members, and from what I have seen, with a few rehearsals this Chapter will be able to compete with any Chapter in the jurisdiction.

ARK CHAPTER, No. 80, being my own Chapter, I attend every Convocation, regular and emergent. I visited officially on 8th May, on which date we were favored with a visit from the Most Ex. the Grand Z. ; there also being present 25 or 30 distinguished Companions, among them was Rt. Ex. Comp. G. V. T. Greenhill. There was no degree work, but we had a very instructive meeting, and received three applications for the degrees. Since that date Ark Chapter has been doing work right along. At the conclusion of the Convocation above referred to we repaired to the banquet hall where an enjoyable time was spent.

PRINCE OF WALES CHAPTER, No. 71, my predecessors for two years previous had pronounced in an almost dormant state. I invited the Most Ex., the Grand Z. to visit this Chapter, which he was very anxious to do, and I so advised the Scribe E. that we would visit them in May, and at their regular Convocation they called an emergent for the 17th of May to receive Grand Officers and confer the Mark degree. From Windsor we were accompanied by a very distinguished party comprising the Most Ex. the Grand Z., W. G. Reid, Past Grand Z., R. B. Hungerford, Ex. Comp. D. L. Carley, Past Z. of Ark Chapter, Comp. A. M. Stewart, Comp. Rev. J. C. Tolmie, Comp. Hardcastle, and myself. Instead of finding a dormant Chapter we were received into a good working and well conducted Chapter, full of enthusiasm. The Grand Officers were received with due honors when the Chapter was closed and a lodge of M. M. M. opened and the Mark degree conferred. The officers were highly complimented on their good work, The business of the evening being finished we were escorted to the Brown House where we sat down to an excellent repast and spent a very pleasant and profitable time.

In company with the Most Ex. the Grand Z. I visited Wellington Chapter, No. 47, on the 18th May. We were met at the depot by Rt. Ex. Comp. T. C. Macnabb. This was an Emergency Convocation called for the purpose of receiving the Grand Officers, and also to confer the Royal Arch degree. Chapter was opened and the Most Ex., the Grand Z. and Grand Supt. received with the usual Grand Honors. The Royal Arch degree was conferred in a very satisfactory manner, and for which the officers were complimented on their good

work, great credit being due Rt. Ex. Comp. Macnabb. At the close of this splendid meeting the Companions adjourned to the banquet hall where the good things were enjoyed, and a pleasant hour or two was spent.

MACNABB CHAPTER, No. 88, was visited on 7th December. On my way to this Chapter I called on Rt. Ex. Comp. T. C. Macnabb and found him in excellent health and he was ready to accompany me to Dresden, where we were met at the depot by a number of the Companions. At the Chapter rooms we found 18 or 20 very enthusiastic Companions in waiting, some of them having driven nine miles to attend. Chapter was opened and I was received with the usual honors. After the regular business of the evening the election of officers took place, and judging from the splendid material selected I have every reason to believe that Macnabb Chapter has a bright future. Chapter was closed and a lodge of Mark Masters was opened and the Mark degree conferred in a very creditable manner, each officer filling his office almost perfectly. The lodge being closed, the banquet hall was visited and a very pleasant time enjoyed.

ERIE CHAPTER, No. 73, I was unable to attend, very much to my regret. However, a year ago this Chapter made a splendid selection in electing Rt. Ex. Comp. Geo. Middle-ditch as its First Principal, and Comp. J. A. C. Anderson as its Scribe E., and under their charge I have every confidence in its future success.

In conclusion I desire to return my sincere thanks to the Companions of St. Clair District for the kindness and courtesy extended to me during my term of office, and I sincerely hope that my successor will be able to report greater progress for the coming year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOMAS PETERS,
Grand Supt., St. Clair District, No. 1.

LONDON DISTRICT, No. 2.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. Officers and Members
of the Grand Chapter of Canada, R.A.M.*

Greeting :

To say that I am pleased with the condition of affairs of the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction, is putting it mild ; every Chapter in London District, No. 2, is full of life and energy and all are progressing in a marked manner. The seven Chapters which comprise the district are all most comfortably quartered, well off financially, increasing in desirable material, and what is perhaps best, working in the greatest love and harmony. My only regret is that too many members in some parts of the district are allowed to get behind with their dues, this is a matter that the Scribes E. will do well to see to, as the prosperity of our Chapters largely depends on their efforts.

BRUCE CHAPTER, NO. 53, Petrolea.—As I knew from past experience this Chapter did excellent work, I availed myself of an invitation to pay my first visit there at an emergency meeting, March 16th, 1899, on which occasion I was accompanied by R. E. Comp. S. Dubber, E. Comps. Frazer and Cockram, and Comp. Caughell, of Palestine Chapter, St. Thomas. The degrees of M.M.M., M.E.M. and R.A.M., were conferred on a team of candidates in a very creditable manner indeed, R. E. Comp. Scott, V. E. Comp. Sinclair, assisted the Z., E. Comp. Smith, in the work. This Chapter boasts a number of "old reliables" who have been the foundation stones of the Chapter, and have, for a number of years, taken an active part in the work. Too much credit cannot be given these Companions, who without hope of fee or reward have so successfully seen to the welfare of their Chapter. Comp. Belasco, who for several years looked after the records, has this year thrown his mantle on the energetic shoulders of Comp. McCann and gone into the field to assist his Companions in putting on the work in the best manner possible, his assistance shows up to good advantage. This Chapter is well and strictly looked after, well off financially, and in very comfortable quarters

ST. GEORGE'S CHAPTER, No. 5, London, Ont.—On April 28th, I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time M. E.

Comp. Reid, the Grand Z., at this Chapter, and we received a most enthusiastic and warm reception. The officers exemplified the Royal Arch degree in a most satisfactory manner, an unusually large number of members being present. The Grand Z., was pleased to justly eulogize the work done; the Comps. of this Chapter are an active energetic class, and with Comp. C. C. Reed, to look after the records everything is systematically and well done. E. Comp. Spittall, the I P.Z., has few equals in the exemplification of the Royal Arch degree, and together with R. E. Comp. Butler and several other P. Z's. is ever ready to go anywhere, and go to any amount of trouble to further the interests of the Royal Craft.

MINNEWAWA CHAPTER, No. 78, Parkhill, Ont.—Visited this Chapter on May 26th, was very kindly met at the station by Comp. Phippen, the Scribe E, and well quartered. The officers conferred the Royal Arch degree on two candidates in an impressive manner, the work of the three principals, Ex. Comps. Sutherland, McLeod, and Wedd, being particularly worthy of mention. The books are well and neatly kept, dues outstanding trifling, the members proud of their Chapter, and they may well be. V. E. Comp. Caw, and other Past Z's. always lend their presence and assistance to give stability and an assurance of continued prosperity to the Chapter.

PALESTINE CHAPTER, No. 54, St. Thomas, Ont.—M. E. Comp. Reid, the Grand Z, very kindly expressed a wish to visit this and Aylmer Chapter, provided meetings could be arranged for evenings following one another, this I managed to arrange and timing my own visit for the same occasion we were present on the evening of June 8th and witnessed the exemplification of the M. M. M. degree by Ex. Comp. Frazer, assisted by R. E. Comp. R. A. McKay, Ex. Comp. McIntyre, and a good set of officers. There was a very large number of members and visitors present and the degree was enjoyed by all. This is my own Chapter, and I am pleased to say is taking in a large number of desirable members, and from the amount of good material now entering the blue lodges in the city, of which it is fair to assume a portion of them, at least, will apply for higher honors, the future prospects are good. I have attended every meeting of this Chapter and know the work on the whole is well done. The M. E. the Grand Z. expressed

himself as being well pleased with the visit. I regret to chronicle the death of R. E. Comp. R. A. McKay, which occurred December 23rd, he was one of the oldest and most enthusiastic members and attended all meetings, he is sadly missed, his place can never be filled, he was widely known throughout this part of the country in all branches of Masonry. To me he was one

“Who had lived to turn his slower steps
Toward the western setting sun,
To see his harvest all complete,
His dream fulfilled, his duty done.”

AYLMER CHAPTER, No. 81, Aylmer, Ont.—The Grand Z was driven from St. Thomas to Aylmer and was present when I made my visit to this Chapter, June 9th. A splendid gathering was present, the candidate however, being a professional man, had to attend an urgent call at the last minute, and disappointed us, the Z. of the Chapter, however, very kindly exemplified the M. M. M. degree in a manner calculated to have the best effect on a candidate. He was ably assisted by E. Comps. Burdick and Ogilvie, and supported by an efficient staff of officers. This is one of the best working Chapters of the District, without any great flourish of trumpets those Comps. do credit to themselves and honor to our Royal Craft. With the Grand Z. I was highly delighted with our visit, in fact the Grand Z. remarked to me after the close of the meeting that he had at least gained “confidence” from his visit. The Scribe E., Comp. Richards, is an enthusiast, and at the same time a true Mason at heart, as are all the Comps. of this Chapter, and many acts of charity and kindness are to be laid at their doors.

WAWANOSH CHAPTER, No. 15, Sarnia, Ont.—Went to Sarnia, October 13th, and visited this Chapter, the R. A. degree was conferred on three candidates, of the right sort of material, I. P. Z. Ex. Comp. Judge McKenzie acting as Z., who with the H. did their work in a very satisfactory manner. The Companions having taken a holiday, as I understand, during the summer months, they had not the work in hand as well as they expected to be able to put it on at a later date, and on the whole it was not done as well as I would like to have seen or expected to see, however, Ex. Comp. Pearson and the Companions filling the offices are most intelligent men, and I

feel my visit was not well timed, as I am sure, with a little practice, the work can be, and I have no doubt will be done, as well as any in the District ; if an effort were made to get an earlier start at the meetings, it would be more business like and assure a better attendance, I fancy. This Chapter has increased more, in point of numbers, I believe than any other Chapter in the District. It is particularly blessed by having Ex. Comp. Wood, an untiring worker for years, a perfect ritualist, capable of taking any part of the work at a moment's notice. The average attendance for the last year has not been large.

ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, No., 3, London, Ont.—This is the oldest and strongest Chapter in the District, and on the occasion of my visit, October 26th, the Companions turned out in large numbers. The Royal Arch degree was conferred on three candidates in a faultless manner, the best work I have seen during my term of office. Ex. Comps. Gauld, O'Brien, Elwood, and Comp. P. S. Graham, divided the honors, but the entire work of all the officers was good. The veteran Comp. Siddons looks after the books of the Chapter well. Taken altogether this evening was one of the most enjoyable I have ever spent, everything seemed to go with a swirl and without a hitch from start to finish.

Permit me in closing to thank the Companions who so kindly elected me to this honorable office, and who so kindly entertained me to many sumptuous banquets at each of the Chapters. I will recall with pleasure the merry time I have spent among my Companions, and I trust London District in the future may enjoy that degree of prosperity which now exists, and which keeps it well in the front rank of the Districts in the Grand Jurisdiction.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

HENRY ROE,

Grand Supt. London District, No. 2.

LONDON DISTRICT, No. 2.

[illegible]

WILSON DISTRICT, No. 3.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Companions
of the Grand Chapter of Canada.*

As the Grand Superintendent of Wilson District, No. 3, I beg to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in this District for the past year.

There are five Chapters in this district, viz., Oxford, No. 18, Woodstock; Mount Horeb, No. 20, Brantford; Ezra, No. 23, Simcoe; Harris, No. 41, Ingersoll, and Brant, No. 115, Paris.

I regret to say I have not been able to visit all the Chapters. I made arrangements on two occasions, but was disappointed, owing to professional engagements. I am, however, able to report on the whole, a decided improvement.

All the Chapters, with one exception, have increased in membership and a general feeling of hopefulness seems to prevail among the Companions.

OXFORD CHAPTER, No. 18, Woodstock.—This Chapter is prospering. Last year only nine meetings were held, this year 10 regular and 2 emergent, total 12. The average attendance last year was 14, this year 19; petitions accepted 3, initiated 2, with 8 to be balloted for on Jan. 15th. No liabilities. Assets, \$400; cash, \$100; property, \$300; dues outstanding, \$70; insurance, \$250. The prospects of this Chapter are good. The Ex. Z. can work all the degrees.

MOUNT HOREB CHAPTER, No. 20, Brantford.—I made arrangements to visit this Chapter on Dec. 1st, with the Most E., the Grand Z. Owing to an outbreak of diphtheria I was unable to leave, and was very much disappointed. This Chapter accepted 6 and initiated 5 during the year, withdrawals 6, property \$1,200, dues outstanding, \$100, liabilities none, prospects good. Last year it was reported 61 members twelve months in arrears, this year only 20. I see no reason why Mount Horeb Chapter should not prosper.

EZRA CHAPTER, No. 23, Simcoe.—This Chapter is in a very flourishing condition, very few Chapters in the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Canada (outside of the large cities),

can make as good a showing. Ezra Chapter is an example of what energy, zeal and courage can do. Some years ago this Chapter was dormant, but through the influence of the Most Ex. the Grand Z., Comp. W. G. Reid, assisted by R. Ex. Comp. Christie, the Chapter was revived, and from a small beginning, to-day the membership is over 100, with 8 petitions accepted. I made an official visit on June 29th. On the same occasion Most Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, Grand Z., honored the Chapter with his presence. After routine business 4 candidates were exalted to the S. degree of the H. R. A. About 40 Companions were present. During the year 9 regular meetings were held and 5 emergent, making a total of 14. Average attendance 25, petitions accepted 20, initiated 15, present membership 104. Degrees conferred M. M. M. 15, M. E. M. 15, R. A. 15. Members twelve months in arrears 10, liabilities of Chapter, none, assets \$700, cash \$200, property \$500, dues outstanding \$30, insurance \$400. The prospects are excellent. The Ex. Z., H. and J. can confer all the degrees, and all the officers, down to the Janitor, do their work properly and well.

HARRIS CHAPTER, No. 41, Ingersoll.—This Chapter is also prosperous. During the past year 9 regular meetings and 1 emergent were held, with an average attendance of 14. Number of members last return 49, petitions accepted 14, initiated 8, suspensions 6, leaving a membership now of 51. Comp. J. F. Williams, S. E., writes: "Altogether we have had a successful year, and the standing of the Chapter generally has improved." No doubt in my mind this Chapter will be safe in the hands of Most Ex. Comp. M. Walsh and Rt. Ex. Comp. Partlo. The Ex. Z. can work all degrees.

BRANT CHAPTER, No. 115, Paris.—This Chapter is not prosperous. During the last year only 3 meetings were held, two regular and one emergent. The average attendance, however, appears to be good, the present membership being 30, and average attendance 11. The Chapter is in a fairly good financial condition, having \$75 in cash and property to the amount of \$197. There are 20 members out of a membership of 30 who are twelve months in arrears, and dues outstanding to the amount of \$170.50. The prospects of the Chapter are poor. The Ex. Z. cannot work all the degrees. I made arrangements to attend an emergent meeting of the Chapter

recently, but owing to illness I could not go. I would recommend my successor to visit this Chapter soon, as I do not wish to advise closing it without a fuller investigation.

I thank the Companions for the honor conferred on me and again express regret on not being able to visit all the Chapters at least once during my term of office.

WM. KENNEDY,

Grand Superintendent, Wilson District, No. 3.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, No. 4.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor, as Grand Superintendent of Wellington District, No. 4, for the past year, to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in this district which embraces the following Chapters :—Waterloo, No. 32, Galt ; Seymour, No. 38, Shelburne ; Guelph, No. 40, Guelph ; Enterprise, No. 67, Harriston ; Ionic, No. 83, Orangeville, and Berlin, No. 117, Berlin.

I have visited officially four of the Chapters in my district, and regret to say that although it was my intention to visit the other two, I have been unable to do so. In the case of Waterloo Chapter No. 32, Galt, I regret that I never received any notice of meetings until December when it was impossible for me to pay that Chapter a visit. In regard to Seymour Chapter No. 38, Shelburne, I have understood that no meeting has been held during my official year, and that the same has been the case for sometime previously. I respectfully desire to recommend this Chapter to the earnest attention of my successor in office, in order, if possible, to reorganize the Chapter and get it into working order.

In regard to the four Chapters which I had the pleasure of visiting, I may say that in each and all of them I found that the interest taken in Capitular Masonry was active and well sustained, and that the addition to the membership during the year was considerable. Capitular Masonry in this district is under great obligations to R. E. Comp. Mahoney of Guelph, for besides the valuable assistance regularly given by him in Guelph Chapter, he has rendered frequent and valuable

assistance to Enterprise Chapter No. 67, Harriston, at considerable personal inconvenience, which I am pleased to record has been acknowledged, to some extent at least, by the Companions in the manner mentioned in my report of that Chapter; I have further found that Comp. Mahoney has also freely given his time and well skilled assistance to other Chapters in the district.

ENTERPRISE CHAPTER, No. 67, Harriston.—Being a member of Enterprise Chapter I attended all its meetings during the year, which has been a most prosperous one. There has been a large increase in its membership by initiations and the interest taken in the work and in all matters pertaining to the welfare and success of the Chapter has been good. The work has been well done. R. E. Comp. Mahoney of Guelph has rendered frequent assistance more especially in working the Royal Arch Degree besides officiating at the recent installation of officers, which ceremony was performed in a most creditable manner. One of the events of the year has been the well deserved election of R. E. Comp. Mahoney, as an honorary member of Enterprise Chapter, No. 67, Harriston

There was a little trouble for a time in this Chapter, but as matters now appear I am pleased to think that harmony prevails and everything is in a satisfactory condition.

BERLIN CHAPTER, No. 117, Berlin.—My official visit to Berlin Chapter was made in the early part of last summer and it was a pleasant and most agreeable one. There was an excellent staff of officers in charge and the work done by them that evening, being the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree, was done in excellent style and in a manner very creditable to the officers. With the able assistance of Past Grand Superintendent Oelschlager of Berlin, who is much devoted to Masonry, and other well skilled Companions, this Chapter will be sure to prosper and maintain its high standard of efficiency.

GUELPH CHAPTER, No. 40, Guelph.—I visited this Chapter officially at their August meeting. The meeting was well attended for that time of the year, the work done being the installation of officers. The ceremony of installation was

impressive and well done, as might be expected under the guidance of R. E. Comps. Mahoney, Scoon and other Companions of Guelph Chapter. I believe there are bright prospects in store for Guelph Chapter under the guidance of the able officers then installed.

IONIC CHAPTER, No. 38, Orangeville.—My official visit to this Chapter was made at their regular meeting in September last. There was no work on for the evening, but I was pleased to see the ballot passed for three candidates at that meeting and that all of them were accepted as worthy to become Companions, thus ensuring a measure of work for the Chapter at several succeeding meetings. They have a good staff of officers and with the able assistance of such Companions as R. E. Comps. McLaren, Mann and Irvine who manifest a strong interest in Royal Arch Masonry, Ionic Chapter will grow and prosper. There appears to be the utmost harmony prevailing amongst the Companions.

WATERLOO CHAPTER, No. 32, Galt.—As I have already stated I regret that I did not visit this Chapter. There was no doubt in my mind that the Companions of Waterloo Chapter, many of whom I personally know to be enthusiastic and well versed in Masonic usages, rules and customs, were well aware of the duty of seeing that the notices of meetings were regularly sent to the Grand Superintendent, so I took it for granted from month to month that I would receive the notice, but none came until the 6th of December, when I happened to be absent from home until after the date of the meeting. I am therefore unable to report anything further respecting this Chapter, but would specially recommend my successor in office to pay his official visit to this Chapter at an early date, and if necessary take steps to have the regular notices of meetings sent to him so as not to fall into the same error as I did in taking too much for granted.

With the exception of Seymour Chapter, No. 38, Shelburne, I believe all are in a fairly prosperous condition and harmony prevailing. I cannot say as to what is the cause of non-prosperity of this single exception in this district. I have understood that various efforts have been made in the past for its resuscitation, and trust that future efforts will be made in that behalf and crowned with success.

In conclusion I desire to thank the officers and Companions of the district for the honor conferred upon me in electing me Grand Superintendent.

All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

GEO. LEIGHTON,

Grand Superintendent,

Wellington District, No. 4.

Harriston, 30th December, 1899.

HAMILTON DISTRICT, No. 5.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I beg to submit to you a brief report of the standing and condition of the several Chapters in this District, No. 5.

HIRAM CHAPTER, No. 2, and ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, No. 6, are both located in the city of Hamilton. I have visited them several times during the present year. The work of exemplifying the several degrees of Capitular Masonry is very well done. The Chapters are increasing in membership and finances, the very kindest and most cordial feeling exists between the two Chapters, and from the newly elected officers for the incoming year the same good work and prosperity may be expected to continue.

Accompanied by a large number of the Hamilton Companions, in the early part of the year I paid a visit to White Oak Chapter of Oakville, No. 104. The reception given to us and the entertainment provided was thankfully received and faithfully applied by the visitors. White Oak Chapter has a special reputation for exemplifying the work in better than ordinary manner, and their officers are very good this year, with fine material to follow.

In the month of October, I with a number of the Hamilton Companions, visited St. Clair Chapter, No. 75. We had a hearty and cordial greeting. Found the Chapter with some brighter prospects ahead. Not as many of the Companions present as we expected, but of those that were there nothing too good can be said. Many old acquaintances were renewed and new ones formed.

A detailed report showing the exact amount of work

done for the year and the financial standing of the several Chapters in the jurisdiction should be attached, but owing to the dilatoriness of the Chapters in sending in the information asked for, all could not be included in time for this report.

One little difficulty has arisen during the year, concerning an alleged invasion of territory. The complaint was laid by St. John's Chapter, No. 6, Hamilton, against Grimsby Chapter, No. 69, of Grimsby, which was duly forwarded to the Grand Z. The matter has been referred to the proper committee and no doubt will be amicably settled at Grand Chapter meeting.

During the year we had the pleasure and privilege of entertaining for a short time the members of Grand Chapter in this city. It was particularly gratifying to us to see so large a turn out of members of Grand Chapter to elect one officer. It tells conclusively that interest in Capitular Masonry is not on the wane but is as lively as ever.

In conclusion I desire to express my most hearty thanks for the kindness and courtesy extended to me by all the Companions of this district during the past year, and may the God of peace bless them evermore. Wishing all a happy and prosperous new year,

I am, yours fraternally and respectfully,

FRED WALTER,

Grand Superintendent, Hamilton District, No. 5.

HURON DISTRICT, No 6.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers
of the Grand Chapter of Canada :*

I beg to submit my report on the condition and prospects of Capitular Masonry in Huron District. There are now seven Chapters in the district, Exeter, No. 85, having surrendered its warrant. It had been reported as dormant for some years and the neighbouring Chapters expect to gain by its demise. I have visited six of these Chapters but have not been able to arrange a meeting with St. James, No. 46, although I have made several attempts. The Companions never seemed to be ready to receive me on my official visit. I hope, however, to be able to secure a meeting with the

Companions of this Chapter before Grand Chapter meets, as I have been informed that they are getting a number of candidates from the field that formerly belonged to the jurisdiction of Exeter Chapter. As I found several slight variations in the working of the Chapters I made arrangements to hold a Chapter of Instruction, in Seaforth, on Thanksgiving Day, under the auspices of The Malloch Chapter.

Four Chapters were well represented at the meeting, and the Grand Z. was present and favored us with an address which was much appreciated. During the forenoon session, the M.M.M. degree was conferred on a candidate by the officers of The Malloch Chapter. Many questions were asked by the Companions and discussed and decided by a committee chosen for the purpose. During the afternoon session the M.E.M. degree was conferred by the officers of Saugeen Chapter, and the R.A. degree by the officers of Havelock Chapter. The officers of all the Chapters did their work well and were complimented by the committee.

I expect that my successor will find a greater uniformity in the working of the Chapters in this District, in consequence of this meeting and the decisions arrived at by the committee. I would recommend more frequent meetings of this kind and would urge all Chapters to try to induce their chief officers to attend them.

TECUMSEH, No. 24.—This is the largest Chapter in the District but has not been active during the year, owing no doubt, in some degree, to the unsatisfactory condition in which the question of healing some (so-called) Companions was left by Grand Chapter. I think, however, that the Companions are now ready to make a fresh start and that next year will witness a large addition to the membership of this Chapter. I visited it at the December meeting, and though some of the officers were absent I saw an exaltation which was very well done. As Ex. Comp. Stuart is an energetic officer, he had his officers well drilled.

HURON, No. 30.—I visited this Chapter at its November meeting and saw the M.M.M. degree conferred on two candidates. The work was very well done, but some of the officers showed signs of not having had sufficient practice. There seems to be plenty of good material ready to join this Chapter, and as some of the younger and therefore more energetic

Companions are taking hold, I expect glowing reports from it in the near future. Rt. Ex. Comp. Beck will be a source of strength to the Comps. of this Chapter. The sad death by drowning of Comp. Rhynas, who had been Scribe E. of the Chapter for many years, was feelingly referred to by the Comps. and a suitable resolution passed at the meeting at which I was present.

ST. JAMES, No. 46.—Could not secure an invitation to visit this Chapter.

SAUGEEN, No. 50.—This is my own Chapter and I have been present at all its meetings. Although there has been no work, as the material to draw from is very limited, yet the Comps. have held regular meetings and the officers have kept up their work and they exemplified the M.E.M. degree at the Chapter of Instruction in Seaforth. As there are two applications before the Chapter now I expect an increase of membership for the next report.

HAVELOCK, No. 63.—I visit this Chapter at an Emergency meeting held in August, and was royally received and entertained by the Comps. of the Chapter. Two candidates were exalted to the R.A. degree by Ex. Comp. Scott and his officers in a manner that left little to be desired. I must say that I noticed no sign of the "dry rot" mentioned by my predecessor, Rt. Ex. Comp. Hall. I am confident that while he and Rt. Ex. Comp. Martyn take so much interest in the Chapter, neither "dry or any other kind of rot" will make much headway in Havelock Chapter. I have not been able to get their returns but I know that they have made good progress during the year.

THE MALLOCH, No. 66.—I visited this Chapter at its November Convocation and saw the officers confer the M.E.M. degree and as they conferred the M.M.M. degree at the Chapter of Instruction, I could form a very good idea of the manner in which they perform their work and I must say that I consider it as nearly correct as any in the District. I think this is due in a great measure to the exertions of V. Ex. Comp. Cheswright. This Chapter expects to benefit from the demise of Exeter Chapter and I predict a bright future for it.

LEBANON, No. 84.—Rt. Ex. Comp. Martyn, whom I con-

sider the most enthusiastic R.A.M. in the District, met me on my visit to this Chapter. The officers expected to have an exaltation but were disappointed, as the candidates did not present themselves. However the officers exemplified the degree in a very satisfactory manner. This Chapter, like some others in the District, seems to be suffering from lack of work. Ex. Comp. Morton, Scribe E, is a well-informed and energetic officer.

I enclose a tabulated statement of the returns from the Chapters so far as received.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Officers and Companions of the District for the kind manner in which I have been received and entertained at the various Chapters.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. ELLIOT,
Grand Superintendent, Huron District, No. 6.

HURON DISTRICT No 6. TABULATED STATEMENT OF RETURNS.

Chapter.	No.	Meetings, Regular.	Meetings, Special.	Meetings, Total.	Attendance, Average.	Attendance, Visitors.	Annual Dues.	Members Last Return.	Petitions Accepted.	Initiated.	Applications.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	Degrees, M.M.M.	Degrees, M.E.M.	Degrees, R.A.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Cash.	Property.	Dues Unpaid.	Insurance.	Prospects.	Re Z.
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NIAGARA DISTRICT, No. 7.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., and the Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

In submitting this my brief report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in Niagara District, No. 7, which is composed of the following Chapters: Mount Moriah, No. 19, St. Catharines; McCallum, No. 29, Dunnville; Niagara, No. 55, Niagara-on-the-Lake; King Hiram, No. 57, Port Colborne; Wilson, No. 64, Welland; Grimsby, No. 69, Grimsby, and Mount Nebo, No. 76, Niagara Falls South, I regret exceedingly that—owing to circumstances over which I had no control—I have not been able to visit all the Chapters, but feel confident that the Royal Craft in this District is not suffering, but on the contrary, is in a very flourishing condition generally.

On the 24th March I visited Mount Moriah Chapter, No. 19, and witnessed the work in the Holy Royal Arch and was delighted to see the work performed in an excellent manner, their officers doing their work well. The books of the Chapter are well kept and the Chapter is in excellent condition, having increased their membership to 94 this year. I think there is only one thing that can be said against good old Mount Moriah and that is their slowness in collecting outstanding dues.

I did not have the pleasure of visiting McCallum Chapter, No. 29, but from correspondence I have had with them and personal knowledge of their zeal and ability, I feel sure that they are in a flourishing condition.

On the evening of December 21st, I visited Niagara Chapter, No. 55, in company with some other Right Excellent Companions, and although the attendance was small, we were well and royally received, but it being the night of their annual election, there was no other work done. The Chapter, I think, is improving and the books are in good condition, and it is my opinion that with a good deal of encouragement, which they certainly deserve, the Chapter will grow and wax strong.

KING HIRAM CHAPTER, No. 57, Port Colborne, is doing well, having a membership of 20 on their roll at the present time and an average attendance of 17 during the past year and I think you will agree with me that this is remarkable

and shows that a good deal of interest is taken by the Companions. Their books are in good shape and outstanding dues none. Their prospects are exceedingly good.

WILSON CHAPTER, No. 64.—I had the pleasure of visiting on September 27th, and as usual they gave us a hearty welcome, and although they lost by fire a short time ago everything they possessed, they are now in fine condition and have a large number of energetic workers and are bound to prosper—their officers being well skilled and untiring. They have a membership of 46 and very few—if any—members in arrear.

GRIMSBY CHAPTER, No. 69, have held 21 meetings this year and have increased their membership from 28 last report to 49 this report. I regret that I have not had the pleasure of meeting them, neither have I been enabled to get any information regarding the grievance between them and St. John's Chapter of Hamilton. If the matter has not already been, I trust it soon will be amicably settled. This Chapter is in a good flourishing condition and their prospects are fair.

MOUNT NEBO CHAPTER, No. 76, I am pleased to say is doing well and has initiated three candidates this year and has a membership of 47. Their finances are in good condition and their books well and neatly kept by Excellent Companion George Hyatt. On the evening of October 13th, I had made arrangements to visit them in company with the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and other Right Excellent Companions, but on that afternoon part of my property was destroyed by fire and I was unable to go, but the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and other Companions kindly went, and from the account received, I am of the opinion that this Chapter is in a very flourishing condition and all thought of removing it to Niagara Falls or Clifton will no doubt be abandoned.

In conclusion allow me to thank the District for honoring me with the office which I have so poorly filled—owing to a series of circumstances which seemed to be arrayed to baffle my good intentions. I also wish to thank the Most Excellent Z. and the Officers and Companions of all the Chapters in the District who have so ably assisted me in the work, and I feel confident that the Royal Craft is prospering in this District ; but as it is my pleasure to report a large increase in

membership, it is also my sad duty to state that death has visited our District and that four beloved Companions have been taken from our midst.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES BURCH,
Grand Superintendent Niagara District, No. 7.

TORONTO DISTRICT, No. 8.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers
of the Grand Chapter of Canada.*

I beg to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in Toronto District, No. 8. There are eight Chapters in the District, viz. :—St. Andrew's and St. John's, No. 4 ; King Solomon's, No. 8 ; Doric, No. 60 ; York, No. 62 ; St. Paul's, No. 65 ; Occident, No. 77 ; Orient, No. 79, and Antiquity, No. 91.

On assuming the duties of Grand Superintendent, I determined to ascertain, if possible, how each Chapter was conducted at the ordinary Convocations, and as a rule, not to notify any Chapter of my intention to be present at any particular meeting, but I informed the various Principals of the city Chapters that I might be present at any Convocation. I carried out this rule throughout my year of office, and I am of opinion that by so doing, I saw more of the inner life of each Chapter than I would have done by any other means.

Every Chapter was visited several times with the exception of Doric, No. 60, at Newmarket, which was visited once, and wherever I went I was always most heartily welcomed. Absolute harmony has reigned throughout the District, and I have not been called upon to give a ruling on any subject whatever. All of the city Chapters now have their funds deposited in some one of the chartered banks.

The two live points of discussion during the year have been, first, the question of the restoration of the M. E. M. degree as it was previous to revision, and secondly, the fee to be charged candidates for Chapter degrees. As far as I could ascertain, the Companions are overwhelmingly in favour of both the restoration of the old work and the placing of the minimum fee for which the degrees can be conferred at \$20. Steps are

being taken by some of the Companions resident at Toronto Junction for the formation of a new Chapter in that town, but up to the present time the matter has not progressed far enough for me to express any opinion thereon.

The Chapters in the District are all progressing, the officers painstaking and attentive to their duties, but I could not fail to observe in my visits to the various Chapters the lack of enthusiasm displayed by the ordinary member. In nearly every Chapter by far the larger proportion of the regular attendants was composed of the officers and Past Principals.

ST. ANDREW'S AND ST. JOHN'S, No. 4.—The work in this Chapter under Ex. Comp. Clewlo has been well done. Every officer deserves special praise. The meetings have all been interesting and instructive, and the short addresses on Masonic subjects by Ex. Comp. H. T. Smith, the Third Principal, are well worthy of mention. M. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, the Grand Z., was present at the December Convocation, accompanied by the Grand Scribe E. and other members of Grand Chapter, when the R. A. degree was conferred upon two candidates in a most satisfactory manner. The Chapter has now on its roll 113 members, while the average attendance throughout the year has been twenty-four members and five visitors.

KING SOLOMON'S, No. 8.—This Chapter is in good hands. While the number of Companions added to the roll during the year does not equal that of the preceding year, still good progress has been made. The work has been well rendered, and the officers as installed at the December Convocation cannot but fail to satisfy my successor in office. This Chapter has the largest membership in the District, and the officers are supported on every occasion by a large number of Past Principals. There are now 184 names on the roll of members, but the average attendance during the year has only been twenty-seven members and five visitors.

DORIC, No. 60, Newmarket.—I visited this Chapter at the regular Convocation in November, and was most cordially received. Three candidates were present to receive the R. A. degree, and the officers conferred the degree in a highly satisfactory manner. This Chapter is greatly indebted to R. Ex. Comp. Brunton for his zeal and enthusiasm in the interests

of the Chapter. The membership is now fifty-seven, while the average attendance has been 15 members and two visitors.

YORK, No. 62, Eglinton.—I devoted a good deal of attention to this Chapter and am glad to be able to report, that what it lacks in numbers is more than compensated by the enthusiasm of its members. Healthy progress has been made during the year, the degree work has been carefully performed and the advantage of concurrent jurisdiction with the City Chapters is now commencing to be felt. Three candidates have received the various degrees during the year. The membership is now thirty-six, while the average attendance has been twelve members and two visitors. M. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, Grand Z., accompanied by R. Ex. Comp. George J. Bennett, Grand Scribe E., and other Grand Chapter officers, visited the Chapter at the regular Convocation in October, when a very pleasant evening was spent and the R. A. degree was exemplified by the Past Z's. of the Chapter, R. Ex. Comp. John Fisher, occupying the chair of First Principal. The M. Ex. the Grand Z. was pleased to express his appreciation of the work he witnessed on that occasion.

ST. PAUL'S, No. 65.—This being my mother Chapter I was present at nearly all the Convocations, The "century" celebration to commemorate the membership roll reaching the "hundred" mark was one of the special features of the year. M. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, Grand Z.; R. Ex. Comp. A. Shaw, Grand J.; R. Ex. Comp. Hugh Murray, Grand Treasurer; R. Ex. Comp. George J. Bennett, Grand Scribe E., and many other Grand Chapter officers were present, and it was indeed a gala night in the history of the Chapter. The R. A. degree was conferred upon two candidates and the work as performed by all the officers was particularly good. The work of the year has been hindered somewhat by the fact that the Chapter was driven from its accustomed quarters owing to the building having to be remodelled, but the alterations are now completed, and the Chapter will henceforward meet in their own rooms. The membership is now 104 while the average attendance has been twenty members and five visitors.

OCCIDENT, No. 77.—The work in this Chapter has been very well performed and nowhere was I more heartily

welcomed. The work of Ex. Comp. Drew, the Third Principal, is especially worthy of praise. The officers were cordially supported by the Past Principals. Every effort is being made by the Companions to make this Chapter second to none in the District and I feel sure that their efforts will be crowned with success. The membership roll now shews seventy-one members, while the average attendance has been seventeen members and three visitors.

ORIENT, No. 79.—The predictions of my predecessor in office in regard to this Chapter have in a great measure been fulfilled, and the work done by Ex. Comp. Mason and his coadjutors is deserving of the highest praise. The Ex. Z. called several meeting of his officers for rehearsal, but unfortunately they were not well patronized, still they were productive of much good to those who did attend. Several of the officers of this Chapter took advantage of the meetings of other city Chapters to attend them and improve their own work by studying the rendition of the work by other Companions. All the officers are enthusiastic Masons and I feel sure that a prosperous year is in store for this Chapter. The membership is now seventy-five while the average attendance has been twenty members and five visitors.

In December this Chapter tendered a reception to M. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, the Grand Z., who was accompanied by R. Ex. Comp. A. Shaw, Grand J., R. Ex. Comp. George J. Bennett, Grand Scribe E., and other officers of Grand Chapter when, although no degree work was exemplified, a most pleasant evening was spent.

ANTIQUITY, No. 91.—This Chapter is composed chiefly of Companions residing in the west end of the city, and the meetings are looked forward to with much pleasure by all the active members. Many Past Principals are always in attendance to assist the officers in any work that is to be done. I was unfortunate in my visits as only on one occasion did I see any degree work done, but on every occsaion I was heartily welcomed. It was with much regret that owing to other engagements I found myself unable to accompany M. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, Grand Z., on the occasion of his visit to this Chapter in November. This Chapter is about to be removed to new and commodious quarters and the officers

being active and enthusiastic Masons I look forward to a very successful and prosperous year. The membership roll now stands at eighty-eight, while the average attendance has been twenty-five members and six visitors.

In conclusion I beg to tender my sincere thanks to the Companions of the various Chapters for the cordial manner in which they always received me and to the Present and Past Principals for their support and co-operation during my year of office, which will always be looked back upon as one of the most pleasant in my Masonic career.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DOUGLAS PONTON,

Grand Superintendent, Toronto District, No. 8.

TORONTO DISTRICT, No. 8.

NAME OF CHAPTER.	No.	Meetings Held.			Average Attendance.	Members.	Visitors.	Annual Dues per Member.	No. of Members last Return.	Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	Degree Conferred			No. of Members 12 Months in Arrears.	Liabilities of Chapter.	Assets of Chapter.	Cash or Securities.	Property.	Dues Outstanding.	Amount of Insurance	Prospects of Chapter.	Can Ex. Z. work all degrees
		Regular.	Emergent.	Total.																									
St. Andrew and St. John's King Solomon's.....	4 8	10 11	10 1	24 27	5 5	\$3 00 3 00	119 193	7 9	5 4	 2	 7	 4	5 6	1 1	113 184	5 4	5 4	7 4	30 18	\$25 00 Nil.	\$632 44 850 25	\$116 94 300 00	\$250 00 150 00	\$265 50 400 25	\$250 00 150 00	Good. Very good Yes.	Yes. Yes.		
Doric	60	10	10	15	2	1 25	54	8	6	.. 1	.. 2	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	57 36	5 3	6 3	6 12	None. 10 00	Nil. 300 00	300 00 50 00	300 00 300 00	300 00 300 00	102 43 300 00	200 00 300 00	Good. Yes.	Yes.	
York	62	10	1	11	12	2	3 00	34	1	3	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	36 104	3 4	3 4	3 28	12 28	10 00 Nil.	300 00 1184 95	50 00 833 30	300 00 170 00	102 43 181 65	300 00 230 00	Good. Excellent.	Yes. Yes.	
St. Paul's	65	9	1	10	20	4	4 80	98	7	4	2 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	71 104	9 4	9 4	10 13	13 28	55 00 Nil.	340 00 1184 95	205 00 833 30	135 50 170 00	125 10 181 65	200 00 230 00	Good. Excellent.	Yes. Yes.	
Occident	77	12	1	13	17	3	3 00	63	17	9	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	71 104	9 4	9 4	10 13	13 28	55 00 Nil.	340 00 1184 95	205 00 833 30	135 50 170 00	125 10 181 65	200 00 230 00	Good. Excellent.	Yes. Yes.	
Orient	79	11	11	11	20	5	3 00	84	6	2	.. 1	4 1	8 1	.. 1	.. 1	75 104	2 4	1 1	1 12	12 28	25 00 Nil.	500 00 1184 95	500 00 833 30	500 00 170 00	250 00 181 65	100 00 230 00	Ex'ty good Excellent.	Yes. Yes.	
Antiquity	91	10	10	10	25	6	3 00	86	11	5	2 2	2 2	3 3	4 4	.. 1	88 104	5 4	4 4	3 12	None. 10 00	Nil. 300 00	705 00 1184 95	200 00 833 30	400 00 170 00	105 00 181 65	600 90 230 00	Excellent. Excellent.	Yes. Yes.	

GEORGIAN DISTRICT, No. 9.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

As Grand Superintendent of Georgian District I have the honor to present my report of the condition of Capitular Masonry in District No. 9 for the year 1899.

There are six Royal Arch Chapters in this District all of which are in good condition and working harmoniously.

I endeavored to visit every Chapter in the District during my term of office, but regret to say that for certain reasons I failed to visit Georgian Chapter, Owen Sound.

SIGNET CHAPTER, No. 34, Barrie.—I made my official visit to this Chapter on Tuesday, October 10th, where I had the pleasure of meeting the Most Excellent the Grand Z., W. G. Reid ; together we had the pleasure of seeing the degrees of M. M. M., M. E. M. and the H. R. A. exemplified. I cannot speak too highly of the class of work done, all the officers performed their parts most creditably, the altar work of the Ex. Z., J. W. Sutherland, being remarkably well done, and to say that Ex. Comp. W. J. Hallet S. E. is proof that the books are well kept. The Chapter has made rapid advance in membership during the past year, and its prospects for the future are of the brightest.

MANITOU CHAPTER, No. 27, Collingwood.—I made my official visit to this Chapter on Friday, Dec. 15th ; there was a very good attendance. The degrees of M. M. M. and M. E. M. were conferred on several candidates, the work being very well done. The Ex. Z. G. W. Bruce presided in a very able manner and rendered the charges most creditably. As will be seen by the tabulated report attached, the Chapter has made good progress during the past year under the able management of the S. E., Comp. F. B. Gregory. The books are well kept and financially the Chapter is in good condition.

MACPHERSON CHAPTER, No. 86, Meaford.—I made my official visit to this Chapter on Thursday, December 21st. This was their regular night of meeting and election of officers, although according to the printed journal of Grand Chapter

their regular night of meeting should have been December 14th, and this discrepancy in dates is what prevented me from visiting Georgian Chapter. I called the attention of the Ex. Z. F. B. Kent to this matter and together we called on R. Ex. Comp. McCarroll, who informed us that some two years ago a resolution had been passed by the Chapter changing the date of meeting from Thursday on or before F. M. to Thursday on or after F. M., and they promised to look the matter up and send me a copy of the resolution in order that it might receive official sanction, and reported to Grand Chapter, but I am sorry to report that they have failed to comply with my request. As it was their night for election of officers I expected a good turn out but was disappointed as there were only ten Comps. present, and five of them had driven in from Thornbury. There being no work the opening and closing in the three degrees was done. I think if the Companions living in town would endeavor to take a little more interest in the meetings and attend more punctually I can see no reason why this Chapter should not prosper. The books are well kept, and financially the Chapter is in good condition. They have done some work during the year, but as they have failed to send me their report I am unable to give particulars.

GRAND RIVER CHAPTER, No. 70.—This being my own Chapter I was able to attend nearly all the meetings and to participate in the work, which, without desiring to be considered egotistical, I may say was well done. The books are well kept, Comp. F. P. Warne as S. E. being a most efficient officer. The Chapter is in good condition financially, and although we have not made all the increase in membership that might be desired, the Chapter has more than held its own as will be seen by the tabulated report attached.

GEORGIAN CHAPTER, No. 56, Owen Sound.—I had planned to visit this Chapter on Tuesday, December 19th, but on account of the discrepancy in the date of meeting of Macpherson Chapter mentioned before I was unable to do so, which I very much regret. From the number of names that have appeared on the summonses this Chapter must have made substantial progress during the year, but as they have failed to send me their report I am unable to give particulars.

ST JOHN'S CHAPTER, No. 103, North Bay.—I made my

official visit to this Chapter on January 5th. We had a very good meeting but no work. At the request of the Ex. Z. I had the pleasure of installing their officers for the ensuing year, and from the class of Companions installed they should give a good account of themselves during the next year. This Chapter has difficulties peculiar to itself; being a railroad town a number of the Companions are railroad employees and for that reason are not always able to attend the meetings, and when this occurs with officers of the Chapter they have difficulty in exemplifying the work. Ex. Companion Holland is, however, a host in himself and is always ready to take the place of any officer who may be absent, and Companion S. Huntington as S. E. is always on hand. The books are well kept and financially the Chapter is in good condition.

In conclusion I desire to thank the Principals and Companions of the several Chapters for the kindness, assistance and hospitality extended to me on the occasion of my official visits, and I have pleasure in stating that from what I saw there is no reason why the prospects for the Royal Craft in this district should not be of the brightest for the future, and I am satisfied that with a little encouragement from my successor, my faith in the ability of the several Chapters will find its verification.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES WHITTEN,

Grand Supt., Georgian District, No. 9.

GEORGIAN DISTRICT NO. 9.

No.	CHAPTER.	PLACE.	MEET-INGS.				MEMBERSHIP.										WORK DONE.			No. Members 12 Months in Arrears.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Dues Outstanding.	Insurance.	Can Ex. Z. do Work ?	Prospects.
			Regular.	Emergent.	Totals.	Average Attendance.	Visitors.	Annual Dues	No. Members last Return.	Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership	M. M. M.	M. E. M.							
27	Manitou	Collingwood...	9	3	12	15	..	\$1 50	55	10	8	1	..	..	..	64	8	9	6	9	..	\$170 00	\$75 63	\$100 00	Yes.	Good.
34	Signet	Barrie	No	re	tu	rn	s.																			
56	Georgian	Owen Sound...	No	re	tu	rn	s.																			
70	Grand River	Bracebridge...	6	..	6	10	1	2 00	46	3	3	0	..	..	..	148	3	3	2	17	..	125 00	51 00	.....	Yes.	Good.
86	Macpherson	Meaford	No	re	tu	rn	s.																			
103	St. John's	North Bay	8	1	9	10	3	2 00	47	5	4	..	1	..	149	4	4	4	16	..	320 00	107 00	200 00	Yes.	Fair.	

ONTARIO DISTRICT, NO 10.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor as Grand Superintendent to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Ontario District, No. 10.

This District is composed of eight Chapters, viz., Pentalpha, No. 28, Oshawa; Keystone, No. 35, Whitby; Corinthian, No. 36, Peterboro'; Victoria, No. 37, Port Hope; Excelsior, No. 45, Colborne; St. John, No. 48, Cobourg; Midland, No. 94, Lindsay, and Warkworth, No. 110, Warkworth.

I have visited all the Chapters in the District once and I am able to state that the majority are in good working order, balance fair.

Their financial condition is good and future prospects bright.

Warkworth Chapter by previous reports the only weak Chapter in the District, on my official visit I found altogether different, there was a fair attendance, a staff of officers capable of doing the work second to none, and prospects good.

PENTALPHA, No. 28, Oshawa.—At an emergent Convocation, Friday, December 15th, I visited this Chapter and received a cordial welcome. There was a fair attendance of Companions. No work was done. The candidate for R. A. degree failed to put in an appearance. The fact that the officers of 1899 were all re-elected for 1900 leads me to believe that the Companions have every confidence in the manner in which the officers perform the work. I am aware that the present staff of officers are well posted in the work of the several degrees, and with the advice and assistance of such Companions as R. Ex. Comps. Murton, Henry, Launder, and McCaw should be one of the best Chapters in the District.

KEYSTONE, No. 35, Whitby.—On October 20th, accompanied by Ex. Comp. Webb of Excelsior Chapter, I made my official visit. The Royal Arch degree was conferred upon three candidates, with Ex. Comp. Henderson, Past Z.; as Z.,

Comp. Haggard, H. ; Comp. Hatch, J. ; Ex. Comp. Ross acting as Scribe E. ; Comp. Richardson, Scribe N. It was fairly well done, but there is ample room for improvement in both the chair and floor work. The Scribe E. has been absent the greater part of the year and I have not received notice of meetings as regularly as I should. I would recommend frequent rehearsals, and with a little hard work on the part of its officers, there will be no doubt of the success of the Chapter. There was a fair attendance.

CORINTHIAN, No. 36, Peterboro'.—I visited this Chapter on November 21st., when I had the pleasure of meeting the Most Ex. the Grand Z. on his official visit, Most Ex. Comp. Judge Harding, Past Grand Z., and V. Ex. Comp. Cornwall were also present. There was a good attendance. The R. A. degree was conferred by Ex. Comp. Walkey and his officers in an almost perfect manner ; the work was so well rendered that I do not feel like making special mention of any officer. I found the books in good form and well kept. Their hall being especially furnished for Chapter work is both convenient and comfortable. At the close of the meeting the Companions were hospitably entertained in the banquet room adjoining the Chapter room, when addresses of interest were made by the Grand Z., the Past Grand Z., and others. •

VICTORIA, No. 37, Port Hope.—I visited this Chapter on November 10th, accompanied by V. Ex. Comp. Cornwall, when two brethren were exalted to the R. A. degree Ex. Comp. Evans as Z., Rt. Ex. Comp. Dr. Might as H., Ex. Comp. Burton as Principal Sojourner, Rt. Ex. Comp. Helm, also took an important part. The degree was conferred in a very satisfactory manner. This is one of the most active Chapters in the District, all the regular officers being well skilled. A noticeable feature of this Chapter is the number of Past Z's. who take an active interest in the work. This is one of the best evidences of a healthy condition. I found the books well kept. Ex. Comp. Coulter is a most efficient officer. This Chapter is in a flourishing condition financially and the membership increasing.

EXCELSIOR, No. 45, Colborne.—This is my own Chapter ; I have been present at every Convocation except one, during my term of office. I did not make an official visit as I have

acted as Scribe E. during the greater part of the year. I regret to say very little was done this year for want of material. As in the past Ex. Comp. Cornwall with an efficient staff of officers, who are both capable and willing, maintains the reputation for discipline and punctuality. The good work of this Chapter is largely due to the constant rehearsals which the Chapter held under the direction of V. Ex. Comp. Cornwall. The newly elected Principals and appointed officers are enthusiastic and able workers in Masonry, and I have no doubt they will keep the Chapter up to the standard it has attained in the past.

ST. JOHN'S, No 48, Cobourg.—On the 10th day of October I visited this Chapter, accompanied by V. Ex. Comp. Cornwall and a number of other Companions from Excelsior Chapter; Rt. Ex. Comp. Hargraft, Past Grand Superintendent, who now resides in Toronto, was also present. The attendance was very good, one familiar face was absent, that of Rt. Ex. Companion Craig, Past Grand Principal Sojourner, who was on a trip to Vancouver and points west. The Royal Arch degree was conferred upon two candidates. The work of the three Principals, Ex. Comps. Hoskins, Z.; Dr. A. H. Raynar, H. J. Odell, J., and of the Principal Sojourner was excellent. Some of the regular officers being absent their places were ably taken by other Companions. Ex. Companions Hewson and Hooey also ably assisted in the work. The Chapter is in good shape financially and otherwise. The books are very well kept by Comp. Robert Buck who is a painstaking officer.

MIDLAND, No. 94, Lindsay.—I paid an official visit to this Chapter on November 16th, accompanied by Companion Nunn of Excelsior Chapter. None of the degrees were conferred, there being no candidate ready, which I very much regretted. The Ex. Z. said they had one, but he could not be found. Two brethren were balloted for, but they reside fifty miles north and could not be present. The Ex. Z. was out of town that day and did not arrive until late, and as this was the night for election of officers I could not have them exemplify any of the degrees. This Chapter has a number of Companions who are anxious to further the best interests of the Chapter, yet there is evidently a great deal lacking to make it successful. The ordinary attendance is small, but

with a little exertion on the part of the principal officers new life might, without great difficulty, be infused into them.

WARKWORTH, No. 110, Warkworth.—I was most anxious to visit this Chapter above all others, which I did on November 22nd, accompanied by Comp. Bellamy, Third Principal Elect, of Excelsior Chapter. The attendance was fair although the roads were not in a good condition, and those who had to drive a distance were not present. The Mark degree was conferred on two candidates by Ex. Comp. Hamilton and Ex. Comp. Richards as S. D. in a most satisfactory and almost perfect manner, and the work of the subordinate officers was excellent, and I was highly pleased with it. I must congratulate Ex. Companion Hamilton and his staff as being well up in their work and faithful officers. At the same time we must remember that Warkworth is only a small village and a limited stock of material to draw from, but will progress steadily so long as it is in as good hands as it is at present.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Companions of the District for the honor they conferred on me when they elected me to the office of Grand Superintendent of Ontario District, No. 10. I regret that I have not been able to do more visiting, and I heartily appreciated all the cordiality that has been extended to me during my visits, and also those who accompanied me on my official visits.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

J. R. FITZGERALD,
Grand Supt. Ontario District, No. 10.

ONTARIO DISTRICT, No. 10.

No.	Name of Chapter.	No. of Regular Meetings.	No. of Emergent Meetings.	Total No. of Meetings.	Average Attendance of Members.	Average Attendance of Visitors.	No. of Members as per Last Return.	No. of Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	No. of Affiliations.	No. of Restorations.	No. of Withdrawals.	No. of Suspensions.	No. of Deaths.	Present Membership.	M. M. M. Degrees Conferred.	M. E. M. Degrees Conferred.	R. A. Degrees Conferred.	No. of Members 12 Months in Arrears of Dues.	Liabilities.	Assets.	In Cash.	In Property.	Dues Outstanding.	Amount of Insurance.	Prospects.	Can Ex. Z. work all the Degrees?
28	Pentalpha.....	7	2	9	10	..	41	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	42	..	..	..	18	None.	\$400 00	.....	\$400 00	\$81 53	\$100 00	Good.	Yes.
35	Keystone	8	0	8	12	3	50	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	52	3	3	3	0	0	400 00	.....	400 00	0	400 00	Fair.	Yes.
36	Corinthian.....	10	0	10	16	1	68	7	1	1	0	1	3	0	66	1	1	1	9	None.	405 00	\$105 00	300 00	68 25	Jointly with blue.	Excellent.	Yes.
37	Victoria.....	12	1	13	20	2	57	11	5	0	0	1	0	0	61	5	5	5	10	None.	900 00	300 00	450 00	150 00	200 00	Good.	Yes.
45	St. John's.....	12	0	12	12	2	43	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	46	3	3	3	0	0	100 00	.....	100 00	None.	None.	Good.	Yes.
48	Excelsior	10	0	10	13	1	59	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	59	1	1	1	0	0	216 42	29 42	187 00	8 50	150 00	Good.	Yes.
94	Midland	8	0	8	11	1	43	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	1	1	4	\$26 00	206 81	6 81	200 00	30 15	150 00	Fair.	No.
110	Warkworth.....	6	0	6	13	2	31	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	34	3	3	1	0	0	200 00	0	200 00	None.	None.	Good.	Yes.

J. R. FITZGERALD,
Supt., Ontario District, No. 10.

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT, NO. 11.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

The undersigned in his capacity of Grand Superintendent of Prince Edward District, No. 11, would beg leave to report on the condition of Royal Arch Masonry as follows :

The District comprises five Chapters, viz., Moira, No. 7, at Belleville ; St. Mark's, No. 26, Trenton ; Keystone, No. 72, Sterling ; Prince Edward, No. 31, Picton, and Mount Sinai, No. 44, Napanee.

MOIRA, NO. 7. Belleville.—I visited this Chapter, June 6th, in company with Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw, Grand Third Principal J. of Kingston. The evening was excessively warm, but the attendance was fairly good. The first Principal was away, but his place was ably filled by Ex. Comp. McKeown. Five candidates were exalted in a manner that showed old Moira to have lost but little if any of her old-time vigor. The books are well kept, and their finances in splendid shape. The other degree in their dining hall was well attended and beautifully worked, prospects are good.

KEYSTONE, NO. 72, Stirling.—Had the pleasure of visiting this Chapter in company with the Most Ex. the Grand Z., and several Comps. from Prince Edward Chapter, on Nov. 15. The Royal Arch was exemplified by Ex. Comp. Halliwell, and his staff of officers, in a very creditable manner. The Principal Sojourner being a more than ordinary efficient officer. This Chapter seems to be very much alive though drawing its supplies from a radius of 16 miles and over, so that the attendance is certainly more or less a matter of wind and weather. The banquet at the Scott House left nothing to be desired, and the speeches especially, that of the Most Ex. the Grand Z. were something to be remembered. When their ritualism comes even with their hospitality, they will certainly take rank among the first Chapters in Canada.

ST. MARK'S, NO. 26, Trenton.—Was visited Nov. 28th, when I again had the pleasure of the company of Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw. The attendance was small, below the average, owing

partly to the extent of territory from which her supplies are drawn, and partly to a lack of sufficient energy on the part of the officers. A candidate was expected but was unavoidably absent, a substitute was provided, and the R. A. was exemplified by Very Ex. Comp. D. J. Walker, in a very pleasant manner. The Ex. Z. was present but had but recently recovered from a severe illness, and although qualified I am told, was unable through physical weakness, to perform the work. They are in a good position financially and with a little more practice and energy should go ahead and prosper.

MOUNT SINAI, No. 44, Napanee.—For some reason I failed to get regular notices from this Chapter and was unable to arrange for a visit, and as I have not received a return from them I am not in a position to report as to their condition.

PRINCE EDWARD, No. 31, Picton.—This is my own Chapter and is certainly a good, live affair and a credit to our ancient and honourable institution. On the evening of my official visit, there were probably 50 members present. There were two candidates exalted to the Supreme Degree, in a manner that left nothing to be desired. The books are nicely kept, and their dues kept well in hand, no debts and money enough in the Treasurer's hands to meet any emergency.

On the whole I am glad to be able to say that the Royal Craft is prospering, moderately it may be, and justifies the hope that another year will show still further improvements.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G NELSON ROSE,

Grand Superintendent, Prince Edward District, No. 11.

Waupoos, Dec. 30th 1899.

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, No. 12.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to submit herewith my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in St. Lawrence District, No. 12, which is composed of seven Chapters, viz.: Ancient Frontenac and Cataragui, No. 1; Grenville, No. 22; Sussex, No. 59; Mait-

land, No. 68 ; St. Lawrence, No. 100 ; St. John's, No. 112, and Covenant, No. 113.

ANCIENT FRONTENAC AND CATARAQUI, NO. 1, Kingston.—This Chapter being the one to which I have the honor to belong, I have availed myself of the privilege of attending all its meetings ; though 102 years old it is still vigorous and presided over by well skilled and capable officers ; I regret to say, however, that during the past year it has suffered greatly for want of material to work with, while the hand of death has been laid heavily upon it, removing three of its most faithful members : Ex. Comp. Rowland, Rt. Ex. Comp. Waddington, and Comp. Fortescue, its most efficient and capable Scribe E. I visited this Chapter officially on May 31st and assisted Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw to instal the officers for the current year, after which a most enjoyable couple of hours was spent socially.

GRENVILLE, NO. 22, Prescott, Ont.—This Chapter has held six regular and one emergent meetings during the year with an average attendance of 16. On the occasion of my official visit the M. M. M. degree was exemplified in an almost perfect manner ; the officers of this Chapter also exemplified the M. E. M. degree at the Chapter of Instruction held in Kingston on September 12th last, an account of which will be found before the close of this report. Grenville Chapter is fortunate in having such an enthusiastic member as Rt. Ex. Comp. Graham, Past Grand Superintendent, and Grand Chapter can rest satisfied that the correct practice of our rites and ceremonies will ever be maintained while the Chapter is under his paternal eye.

SUSSEX, No. 59, }
ST. LAWRENCE, No. 100, } Brockville, Ont.—On April 28th, accompanied by Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw, I paid an official visit to these two Chapters, who had arranged joint emergent meetings for the occasion. My visit to these Chapters is one of the most pleasant and unique experiences I have had during my official terms. Sussex Chapter is my mother Chapter, and I was one, who, at the time, thought it best to withdraw therefrom and become a charter member of a new Chapter, afterwards St. Lawrence, No. 100. It can be understood, therefore, how pleasing it was to me as Grand Superintendent of

the district to visit these two Chapters only a few years afterwards and to find all past differences forgotten, the two Chapters meeting in the same room in the most friendly and fraternal manner. The meeting was opened by the officers of Sussex Chapter, who conferred the M. M. M. degree on one of their candidates ; they afterwards conferred the M. E. M. degree on the same candidate and one from St. Lawrence Chapter, who had at a previous meeting received the M. M. M. degree at the hands of the officers of his own Chapter ; the officers of Sussex Chapter then vacated the chairs which were taken by the officers of St. Lawrence Chapter who exalted to the H. R. A. two candidates. Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw will, I think, bear me out in saying that better or more correct work cannot be done by any Chapter than was done on this occasion.

At the close of the meeting a joint banquet was provided to which some sixty or seventy Companions did full justice ; the speeches made on the occasion all breathed of brotherly love and friendship between the two Chapters which was to me a source of great pleasure. These two Chapters have been most successful during the year, Sussex having accepted eleven petitions and St. Lawrence twenty.

MAITLAND, No. 68, North Augusta.—The only cause I have for regret during my official year was my inability to accept the kind invitation extended to me by Ex. Comp. Chapman to visit this Chapter on October 20th last when the M. M. M. degree was being conferred. Business engagements utterly prevented me leaving the city at the time ; I feel that the loss is entirely mine, as Ex. Comp Chapman and the Companions of North Augusta are Royal Arch Masons whom it is profitable to meet, I trust my successor will be more fortunate. The Chapter held three meetings during the year at which six petitions were accepted. The Ex. Z. is well skilled in all the degrees, and the Chapter is in a sound financial condition.

ST. JOHN'S, No 112, Morrisburg.—This Chapter has been in a most wretched condition during the past year and a half ; in fact, after a lengthy, unsatisfactory correspondence and a personal visit I have hardly made up my mind whether it is going to weather the storm or die a natural death. The difficulty seems to be that a quorum cannot be depended upon in Morrisburg, so that when bad weather or the condition of the

roads prevent the country members attending, meetings have to be abandoned. I tried hard to establish communication with this Chapter which would lead to a meeting being held which I could attend, in order to investigate matters and come to a decision as to what would be the best course to pursue, without success, however, till 19th ult.; when I succeeded in having summonses issued calling a meeting for election of officers and to receive the Grand Superintendent. I was pleased to find a fair attendance and considerable interest seemed to be awakened before the close. After a full discussion it seemed to be the unanimous opinion that the Chapter's prospects were good provided officers could be secured who would be faithful to their duties; this seemed to be borne out by the fact that four petitions were read at the meeting.

Before the election took place I endeavored strongly to impress upon those who might be chosen to office, the duty they owed the Craft and Chapter at this particular time in its history when everything depended upon the zeal of the officers; the result of the first ballot for Z. was a unanimous vote for Ex. Comp. Harkness, the present Third Principal J. Seeing that after my remarks Comp. Harkness himself thought (by his vote) that he was fitted for the task I am forced to the conclusion that he is; and trust that he will fulfil the expectations of himself and his Companions; time alone will tell. Before the meeting closed the Companions promised that they would at once raise and remit to Grand Chapter their outstanding dues.

COVENANT, No 113, Cornwall.—After the foregoing it is a relief and pleasure to report upon this Chapter. Two years ago, as an experiment, it was removed from Farran's Point to Cornwall, and I am pleased to say that there is every indication that its success is assured.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw accompanied me on a visit on March 29th last. It was a lovely spring day when we left Kingston, but we reached Cornwall during one of the biggest kind of snow storms which continued to grow during the entire evening and made it impossible for the country members to attend from Farran's Point and elsewhere where driving was the mode of travel. The Cornwall Companions, however, turned out in full force and gave your representatives a grand Highland welcome. The Royal Arch degree was conferred on two candi-

dates, one of whom was the W. Master of the Blue Lodge in Lancaster. I was most favorably impressed with the quality of the officers of this Chapter, they are all young, energetic and fully equal to their responsible duties, and did their work in a manner equal to anything I have seen in any city Chapter. I prophesy for this Chapter continued prosperity, as the officers all down the list are well qualified for advancement, and should uphold the present high standard of excellence. At the close a banquet was provided which, no doubt, would have been fully enjoyed by your representatives had we not been forced to hurriedly leave while it was in progress, to catch the last night train for home. Imagine our disgust on arrival at the station, some two miles distant, to find the train two hours late owing to the snow storm, we occupied hard board seats and bemoaned the irony of fate which had caused us to overlook the telephone service.

CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Through the kindness of the Companions of Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui Chapter I was enabled to hold a most successful Chapter of Instruction for the district in Masonic Hall, Kingston, on September 12th, and in a small measure return the hospitality received at the hands of the Prescott Companions last year. The meeting opened at 4 p. m. when the M. M. M. degree was exemplified by the officers of Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui Chapter ; at 5.30 p. m. the M. E. M. degree was exemplified by the officers of Grenville Chapter, No. 22, Prescott, and at 8 p. m. the R. A. degree was undertaken by a joint set of officers from the two Brockville Chapters (Sussex and St. Lawrence).

The quality of the work performed by these Chapters on this occasion was of a high order and called for the most favorable encomiums from the Most Excellent the Grand Z., whom we were all delighted to meet, and whose address was of a most stimulating nature. Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw also added much to the success of the gathering. We all regretted, however, the absence of Rt. Ex. Comps. Gibson and Bennett, who were at the last moment unable to be present. At the close adjournment was made to the banquet hall where, after full justice had been done to the good things provided by the Kingston Companions, speeches and songs were the order of the night. Needless to say these also were of a high order of merit, being furnished by such distinguished Companions as

the Most Excellent the Grand Z, the Grand J., Past Grand Z's. Donald Ross, of Picton, and Robt. Hendry, jr., of Kingston, Rt. Ex. Comps. R. T. Walkem, Fitzsimmons, Wilkinson, Hurton, Graham, Nixon and V. Ex. Comp. Greene. Special mention may be permitted of the speech made on this occasion by Comp. the Rev. A. W. Richardson, M. D., who, in replying to the toast of "Canada our Home," worked the Companions up to such a state of patriotism that they were on the top of the table. This most successful gathering came to a close in the wee sma' hours by escorting our visitors from Hamilton, Toronto, Stirling, Picton, Brockville, Prescott and Cornwall to their respective trains.

In conclusion I desire to thank the Companions of the district for the unusual honor they did me in electing me for a second term and for the uniform courtesy and kindness I have received at all times at their hands; also especially Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw for his kindness in accompanying me on most of my official visits; this has not only been of great assistance to me but his presence on these occasions has, I feel sure, been a pleasure and benefit to the Chapters visited.

I herewith enclose a tabular statement of the standing of the various Chapters.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. THOMSON,

Grand Superintendent, St. Lawrence District, No. 12.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, No. 12.

No.	CHAPTER.	LOCATION.	Meetings.			Membership.				Degrees Conferred.				Average Attendance.		Financial.					No. in Arrears.	Insurance Carried.			
			Regular.	Emergent.	Total	Dec. 31st, 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.	Total, Dec. 31, '99	M. M. M.	M. E. M.	R. A.	Total.	Initiations.	Suspensions.	Withdrawals.	Deaths.	Members.	Visitors.	\$			c.	\$	c.	$	c.
1	Ancient Frontenac and Catarqui ..	Kingston	4	3	7	72	...	3	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	16	8	400 00	.....	50 00	450 00	8 200 00	\$	c.
22	Grenville	Prescott	6	1	7	54	...	1	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	2	700 00	110 00	50 00	860 00	13 200 00	\$	c.
59	Sussex.	Brockville. ...	9	3	12	71	6	...	77	6	4	2	12	6	...	...	12	3	200 00	90 00	173 00	463 00	24	None.	
68	Maitland	N. Augusta. ...	3	...	3	28	2	1	29	2	2	...	4	2	1	...	11	...	25 00	100 00	50 00	175 00	19	"	
90	St. Lawrence. ...	Brockville.	12	1	13	46	8	2	52	8	7	7	22	8	...	2	11	2	150 00	.....	190 00	340 00	20	...	
12	St. John's	Morrisburg. ..	1	...	1	36	...	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	1	250 00	.....	97 00	347 00	19 200 00	\$	c.
13	Covenant	Cornwall	10	1	11	54	9	7	56	8	8	7	23	8	7	...	15	1	140 00	120 00	60 00	320 00	7 150 00	\$	c.

OTTAWA DISTRICT, No. 13.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Members of Grand Chapter.

As Superintendent of the Thirteenth District I beg to report : I visited all the Chapters with the exception of one, and find that they are doing fairly well, meeting regularly, doing good work, and what is still more satisfactory, the members appear to be living in perfect harmony with one another.

MAPLE CHAPTER, No. 16, Carleton Place.—I visited on Jan. 2nd and installed their officers. The M. E. M. degree was conferred on a candidate by the First Principal R. Ex. Comp. McIntosh in his usual good form. The subordinate chairs were not filled by their proper occupants, so that I did not have a chance to judge of this part of the work. This Chapter appears to be holding its own, and I understand has a fair prospect for the coming year.

GRANITE CHAPTER, No. 61, Almonte.—I attended their meeting Jan. 9th. Not having any degree work, I witnessed the opening and closing of the degrees by Ex. Comp. Coulter and his officers. They received two petitions on the evening of my visit, and I consider their Chapter to be in good shape, although they have only shown an increase of one for the year. They have a good lot of officers and I have no doubt but they will do well. I granted permission to attend Divine service on Oct. 22nd at their request.

BONNECHERE CHAPTER, No. 114, Renfrew.—I visited this Chapter Jan. 11th, accompanied by that ever-ready helper, R. Ex. Comp. McArthur, installation being the chief business of the evening. I had the pleasure of installing E. Comp. W. A. Mackay, D. D. G. M., of the Grand Lodge as First Principal. They have a nice Chapter room with all modern appliances, do excellent work, and seem to take pride in making their Chapter and R. A. Masonry a success in Renfrew. They are a whole-souled lot of fellows, and we spent a very pleasant evening with them.

PEMBROKE, No. 58, Mattawa.—I understand is practi-

cally dead, and from hearsay, not having received any notices, learn that they have not met for some time. It seems to me their locality cannot support a Chapter, and the best thing the incoming Superintendent can do, is to ask for their charter.

CARLETON CHAPTER, No. 16, Ottawa.—I attend regularly, being my own Chapter. Numerically and financially, it is in better shape than any of the others, but it has seven blue lodges to draw from, against the others one, although I think the work in other Chapters is just as good. The younger members especially seem to lack that enthusiasm necessary to a real live Chapter, and in some instances do not attend regularly, and have their work very indifferently, so that subordinate chairs are oftener filled by Past Principals than the regular officers, in fact this seems to be the bane of all Chapters. One pleasant feature of the Convocations is meeting with the long line of Past First Principals for which Carleton Chapter is noted, and who can be depended upon to fill any subordinate position, no matter what, in order to make the work go well. However, Grand Chapter need not fear for Carleton Chapter ; although the increase in membership may not be large from year to year, it will not retrograde.

S. A. LUKE,

Grand Superintendent Ottawa District, No 13.

OTTAWA DISTRICT, No. 13.

No.	CHAPTERS.	PLACE.	MEET-INGS.				MEMBERSHIP.										WORK DONE.			No. Members 12 Months in Arrears.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Dues Outstanding.	Insurance.	Can Ex. Z. do Work ?	Prospects.	
			Regular.	Emergent.	Total.	Average Attendance.	Visitors.	Annual Dues.	No. Members last Returns.	Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	M. M. M.	M. E. M.								R. A. M.
16	Carleton	Ottawa.....	9	0	9	21	5	\$3 00	75	4	3	0	0	1	3	0	74	3	3	4	10	0	\$880 71	\$166 20	\$400 00	Yes.	Good.
58	Pembroke.....	Matlawa.....	No re tu rn s.																								
61	Granite	Almonte	6	0	6	11	2	1 00	28	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	27	2	2	2	8	\$42 00	227 60	37 50	150 00	Yes.	Good.
114	Bonnechere ...	Renfrew	10	4	14	13	0	2 60	41	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	45	4	4	4	14	0	375 00	75 60	150 00	Yes.	Good.
116	Maple	Carleton Place.	8	0	8	10	1	2 00	Not given.	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	36	1	0	0	19	0	245 00	87 00	150 00	Yes.	Good.

ALGOMA DISTRICT, No. 14.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Herewith I desire to present my report upon the state of Capitular Masonry in the District of Algoma. There are four Chapters in my District, viz., Shuniah, No. 82, Port Arthur; Golden, No. 90, Rat Portage; Tuscan, No. 95, Sudbury; Algonquin, No. 102, Sault Ste Marie. I regret to have to state that owing to the great size of the district over which I have the honor to officiate, I have been unable to attend the the Convocations of the different Chapters, however, I can report that Capitular Masonry is in a very satisfactory condition in Shuniah, Chapter, No 82, and Algonquin Chapter, No. 102. During the year Shuniah has had eleven Convocations, has been doing good work and is in good financial standing. On St. John's Day, Dec. 27th, I installed the officers for the ensuing year. This Chapter has very efficient officers who are zealous workers and the Companions are quite enthusiastic, I have no doubt that Shuniah will continue to prosper in the future as it has done in the past.

Algonquin Chapter is also worthy of special mention having had eight regular and four emergent meetings during the past year. Petitions accepted during the year twelve, candidates initiated, ten. Degrees conferred: M. M. M., ten; M. E. M., ten; R. A., ten. The financial standing of this Chapter is also good and its prospects are second to none in the District. As I have received no report from either Tuscan Chapter, Sudbury, or Golden Chapter, Rat Portage, I am unable to state the conditions of these Chapters.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

A. ALLEN,

Grand Superintendent, Algoma District.

Port Arthur, Jan. 1, 1900.

MANITOBA DISTRICT, NO. 15.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, of Canada.

I beg to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Manitoba District, No. 15.

At the beginning of the year there were four Royal Arch Chapters in the District, viz., Prince Rupert's, No. 52, Winnipeg; Corinthian, No. 101, Boissevain; Signet, No. 105, Winnipeg, and Zeredatha, No. 111, Morden.

Prince Rupert's is my mother Chapter, and I attended almost all the meetings of this and Signet Chapter, of which I was also a member. I regret that I have not been able to visit the other two Chapters.

ZEREDATHA, No. 111.—This Chapter has not held a meeting since last spring. The Scribe E. writes me that they have given up their hall, that they owe nothing and have no money, and see no better prospects for the near future, and believe it best to surrender the Charter, to which effect they have written the Grand Scribe E.

CORINTHIAN, No. 101.—I have not been able to get a report from this Chapter. For several years they appear to have been in a condition of somnolence from which they have not yet awakened. There does not appear to be enough material in the vicinity of these small towns, with a single Blue Lodge, to keep alive a Royal Arch Chapter. Not much zeal can be expected to be shown when there are no candidates.

PRINCE RUPERT'S, No. 52, AND SIGNET, No. 105.—These two Winnipeg Chapters amalgamated last April by taking the name and number of Prince Rupert's, and Signet surrendering her charter. Signet Chapter which, without financial resources after the burning of the old Hall, had undertaken to pay for one half the furnishing of a new Chapter room and new paraphernalia, and also to pay \$220 annual rent, found it very difficult to keep her finances even. The officers of each Chapter were faithful, industrious, and of good skill in their work. Each Chapter had been regular in holding its meetings, but the interest shown by the Companions was in no way

in keeping with the size of the membership. The work performed by both Chapters of late years had not been too great for one active Chapter to perform, and there will be an annual saving of about \$250 in expense.

At the date of the union, Prince Rupert's had 141 members and Signet 71. There have since been seven initiations, one affiliation, ten withdrawals and eight suspensions, leaving the present membership 202.

The Chapter has property \$1,022, cash and readily convertible securities \$520, and outstanding dues \$468, with liabilities amounting to \$620. The outstanding dues account is too large, and a strong effort is being made to reduce it.

I had the honor to install the new officers of the Chapter at the January meeting. I have seen them work the various degrees, and believe them well qualified. The newly installed Ex. Z., Companion Robert Magness, works all the degrees, and is an excellent presiding officer.

Considering the history of the Chapters heretofore founded in Manitoba, I am led to doubt the wisdom of granting charters to small towns in the present stage of development in this country. Winnipeg is a place of rendezvous at least once a year, for most of the men living west as far as the Rocky Mountains, and I believe the interests of Royal Arch Masonry would best be promoted by maintaining a very strong Chapter in Winnipeg, and not guarding too strictly the lines of jurisdiction between it and the Chapters in the distant west. It is generally more convenient for one to travel several hundred miles to Winnipeg to get his degrees than to go a fractional part of that distance to some Chapters that may be west of him, and I believe that Royal Arch Masonry here thus loses a good many members shut out by the matter of jurisdiction.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. H. ENDERTON.

Grand Supt. Manitoba District No. 15.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT No. 16.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., the Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

As Grand Superintendent of District No. 16, I have the honor of reporting on the condition of the Royal Craft in the Province of British Columbia, for the year 1899.

It is good. The following summary of work done speaks in no uncertain manner of the way in which the officers of each Chapter throughout the jurisdiction have attended to their duties :

	Vancouver No. 98, Vancouver	Kootenay No. 120, Kaslo.	Rossland No. 122, Rossland.
Meetings held { Regular	12	9	9
Emergent	5	5	10
Total	17	14	19
Average Attendance { Members ..	17 4	11 1-7	15
Visitors....	2 3	1 4-7	2
Annual Dues.....	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$2 00
No. of Members, as per last Return	116	29	20
" Petitions Accepted	43	9	17
" Candidates Initiated.....	34	8	17
" Affiliations	3	1	..
" Restorations	0	..	..
" Withdrawals	1	..	..
" Suspensions	0	..	..
" Deaths.....	3	..	..
Present Membership.....	149	38	33
Degrees Conferred, M. M. M.....	36	8	17
" M. E. M.....	36	8	13
" R. A.....	34	7	13
No. of Members 12 M's. in Arrears.	60	3	..
Liabilities of Chapter.....	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Assets	\$1600	\$668 12	\$614 45
Cash	900	368 12	97 33
Property	700	300 00	517 12
Dues Outstanding	400	21 50	....
Insurance Carried	400	200 00	500 00
Prospects of Chapter.....	Good.	Good.	Good.
Can Ex. Z. work all degrees?.....	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.

I visited each Chapter once and found :—

VANCOUVER, No. 98, Vancouver, in a very flourishing condition. The officers well up in their work and ably sustained by a number of loyal Companions. The amount of outstanding dues noted above has been greatly reduced since report was handed in.

KOOTENAY, No. 120, Kaslo, one of the most thorough-going Chapters in Canada. Everything undertaken is carried out in a manner that can only be equalled by those who are guided by the high standard in daily use by Ex. Comp. Chipman, the efficient First Principal. The Companions of this Chapter share the enthusiasm of their officers to the extent of becoming thoroughly conversant with the ritual and constitution, and are pioneers in the matter of hospitality.

ROSSLAND, No. 122, Rossland, suffering from the effects of a fire which had deprived it of a home during the best part of the year. The night of my visit was the first occasion a hall was procurable for three months, and it was hardly in condition; consequently, there was no work on, and I did not have a practical demonstration of the skill and workmanlike qualities that common report attributes to the officers of this Chapter. The amount of work done in spite of the hardship endured, is ample evidence that the Royal Craft is well looked after in this vicinity by Companions who need never fear of having their work rejected.

Several very enthusiastic Companions in Nelson have applied for and have been granted a dispensation to start a Chapter at that point, but owing to a slight technicality it is not yet in force. There are about forty-five Companions in this vicinity who will doubtless see that their Chapter keeps pace with its surroundings.

New Westminster has also had a dispensation granted, and from what is generally known of the officers chosen, a good report will be sent from there next year.

The Scottish Chapter at Nanaimo, has exhibited signs of life on one or two occasions during the year, and when in that condition expresses a feeble desire to cast in its lot with us, but . . . even while the expression is being made, the comatose condition is again in evidence.

I am deeply grateful to the officers and Companions

throughout the jurisdiction for favors received at their hands, more especially so to Rt. Ex. Comp. H. H. Watson.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

T. CLOUSTON,
Grand Superintendent, District No. 16.

ALBERTA DISTRICT No. 17.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Companions
of the Grand Chapter of Canada.*

I beg to submit my annual report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in District No. 17.

I have visited the three Chapters in my District and am happy to say that harmony prevails. I would like to draw the attention of Chapters to exercise more care in the matter of invading the jurisdiction of other Chapters. Three cases have come under my notice but they have been amicably settled without much trouble, and the fee has been donated, in two cases, to "The Aged and Infirm Mason's Fund" of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, and the N. W. Territories. The Chapters have all made fair progress during the year, and are all in good financial standing. Their list of visiting members is small, and I would ask that any Companions visiting the west from eastern Chapters would try and make it convenient to visit here.

ALBERTA CHAPTER, No. 106, Calgary.—Being a member of this Chapter I have been a fair attendant. They have added considerable to their paraphernalia, in fact, have all that is really necessary for Degree work, and is now one of the best equipped Chapters in the Dominion. I installed the officers last January and have been invited to do the same next Tuesday evening. The newly elected officers are well skilled and I expect them to make "1900" a banner year. In membership they have made a good increase. Same in finance. The Scribe E. has all his books in good order, and written fully up to date.

NORTH STAR CHAPTER, No. 118, Edmonton.—This Chapter still holds the medal for being the highest or most northerly Chapter on the continent. I have visited this Chap-

ter twice during the year, once in January. when I installed the officers, and again in November, when I saw the R. A. Degree conferred. This Chapter has also made good progress. Financially they are very good, having not one member six months in arrears. They are looking forward to having a hall (Masonic) of their own before long. The officers are all well skilled and the Scribe E. has every reason to be proud of his books. The Treasurer as well, with a neat little balance of over \$250.00.

WASCANA CHAPTER, NO. 121, Regina.—I have only been able to visit this Chapter once during the year, last March, but have seen some of the officers at various times since. Not being there during their regular meeting nights, and when there, a number of the officers were absent. I did not call a special meeting. Up to date I have not received their report and consequently am unable to give as good a report as I would like to I have written for it, and it may come later. The Companions do not take as much interest in their work as I would like to see, or expected, but hope their report for next year may be better. The amount of outstanding dues are considerably decreased from last year in all Chapters, and I am glad to report a steady progress throughout the whole District for the year.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

A. W. R. MARKLEY,

Grand Superintendent, Alberta District, No 17

Calgary N. W. T., December 28th, 1899.

REPORT OF THE GRAND SCRIBE E.

To the M. E. the Grand Z. and the Grand Chapter of Canada.

COMPANIONS,—I beg to present the statement of moneys received by me during the year from all sources and paid over to the Grand Treasurer.

There are now ninety-four warranted Chapters and two under dispensation. At the date of closing the books, viz., 18th January, seventy-four had sent in returns with the amounts owing, nine had sent returns unaccompanied by cheque, and eleven had not been heard from. Several of the latter have since that date paid up.

I would respectfully submit the necessity of all Chapters forwarding their dues and fees to this office not later than the first week in January, as the crowding in of returns at the last moment involves much discomfort and engages time that should be devoted to completing preparations for the Annual Convocation.

It is also pointed out that owing to the overlapping, necessitated by Chapters tardy in their payments, an accurate statement of the twelvemonth's work in the jurisdiction is not possible. Carrying over many payments to the next year, as is the case on this occasion, is unjust to the labours of the period just concluded, and contributes to the statement of the coming year something to which it is not entitled. By prompt payment, as suggested, every year will be enabled to tell its own story of work done. Following is the financial statement and list of receipts from Chapters :

CASH STATEMENT.—GRAND SCRIBE E.

DR.

From Chapters.—Certificates.....	\$ 519 00
Registration Fees.....	515 50
Membership Dues.....	1178 60
Dispensations.....	86 00
Constitutions.....	38 20
Sundries	24 00
	\$2361 30
Interest.—Toronto General Trusts.....	\$ 80 00
Industrial School Bonds	680 00
	760 00
Total	\$3121 30

CR.

March 1, 1899—Grand Treasurer.....	\$ 200 00
June 2, “ “	340 00
July 1, “ “	40 00
Dec. 2, “ “	340 00
Dec. 11, “ “	200 00
Dec. 30, “ “	500 00
Jan. 1, 1900 “	40 00
Jan. 5, “ “	500 00
Jan. 18, “ “	961 30
Total	\$3121 30

ANNUAL STATEMENT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1899.

RECEIPTS FROM CHAPTERS.

1 Ancient Frontenac ..\$ 3 00	62 York.....\$ 15 80
2 The Hiram..... 47 50	64 Wilson..... 9 60
3 St. John's 75 10	65 St. Paul's..... 29 10
4 St. And. & St. John's. 32 60	66 The Malloch..... 14 90
5 St. George's 58 60	68 Maitland 13 80
6 St. John's 60 40	69 Grimsby..... 68 00
7 Moira 43 60	70 Grand River..... 15 60
8 King Solomon's..... 46 80	71 Prince of Wales.... 11 40
15 Wawanosh 61 30	73 Erie..... 23 00
16 Carlton..... 33 80	76 Mount Nebo..... 15 40
18 Oxford 14 60	77 Occident 33 90
19 Mount Moriah..... 27 30	78 Minnewawa 22 00
20 Mount Horeb..... 54 20	79 Orient 71 10
22 Grenville 10 60	80 Ark 31 00
23 Ezra 1 00	81 Aylmer..... 29 40
24 Tecumseh 21 80	82 Shuniah 19 40
26 St. Mark's 19 20	83 Ionic..... 26 60
27 Manitou..... 28 90	86 Macpherson..... 11 60
28 Pentalpha 11 20	88 Macnab. 13 60
30 Huron..... 18 60	91 Antiquity 28 40
31 Prince Edward..... 41 60	94 Midland 26 20
32 Waterloo..... 18 20	95 Tuscan..... 8 20
34 Signet..... 75 60	98 Vancouver 101 80
35 Keystone..... 50 40	100 St. Lawrence..... 26 40
36 Corinthian..... 24 90	101 Corinthian 21 60
37 Victoria..... 28 60	102 Algonquin..... 29 20
40 Guelph..... 24 70	103 St. John's 17 80
41 Harris 27 20	104 White Oak..... 16 30
44 Mount Sinai..... 24 40	106 Alberta 37 40
45 Excelsior..... 13 80	110 Warkworth..... 20 40
46 St. James 15 50	113 Covenant..... 27 80
47 Wellington..... 22 30	114 Bonnechere..... 22 00
48 St. John's 15 20	115 Brant 6 00
50 Saugeen..... 10 00	116 Maple..... 9 30
52 Prince Rupert 55 40	117 Berlin 20 40
53 Bruce 39 60	118 North Star..... 21 90
54 Palestine 55 50	119 King Cyrus..... 22 20
55 Niagara 3 80	120 Kootenay..... 24 60
56 Georgian..... 13 80	122 Rossland..... 23 00
57 King Hiram..... 6 20	U. D. Nelson..... 25 00
59 Sussex 27 40	U. D. Westminster..... 25 00
60 Doric 23 40	
61 Granite 9 40	
	\$2337 30
Interest, Toronto General Trusts.....\$ 80 00	
“ Industrial School Bonds..... 680 00	
Sundries 24 00	
	784 00
Total \$3121 30	

CHARTERS SURRENDERED.

During the year I received from the Companions of Exeter Chapter, No. 85, Exeter, and Signet Chapter, No. 105, Winnipeg, their surrendered charters, together with minute book, seal, etc. In the former case the members found themselves unable to progress; in the latter, the Companions decided to amalgamate with the other Winnipeg Chapter.

A communication from the Scribe E. of Zeradatha Chapter, No. 111, Morden, Manitoba, conveys the information that the Companions are desirous of relinquishing their charter, for a time at least, as they have lost their home, and at present are unable to procure another suitable.

Two Chapters which have been dormant for years are those at Rat Portage and Shelburne. Their resuscitation is apparently hopeless, and their continuation on the roll is not conducive to appearances.

NEW CHAPTERS.

Applications were received in November last from Companions living at Nelson and New Westminster, B. C., who wished to start Chapters in those cities. Everything being in order, and under instruction from the M. E. the Grand Z, I filled out and forwarded in each case the required letters of dispensation, duly signed and sealed. The following are the names of the applicants as appended to the respective petitions:—

NELSON, U. D.—W. J. Quinlan, No. 120, G.R., Scotland; Edward N. Crease and A. W. Peck, No. 105, G.R., Canada; R. S. Kinghorn, No. 8, G.R., Quebec; A. LeForin, No. 120, G.R., Canada; Sidney S. Taylor, No. 118, G.R., Canada; Fred Irvine, Jacob Dover, David LeBau, W. F. Teetzel, J. A. Turner, H. J. Evans, Geo. Johnstone and J. R. Robertson, No. 120, G.R., Canada; E. W. Matthews, No. 52, G.R., Canada; W. Irvine, and Hugh Stevens, Carlton, G.R., New Brunswick; G. L. Lennox, No. 91, G.R., Canada; F. C. Greer, No. 56, G.R., Maine; Robert Weir, No. 80, G.R., Canada; Geo. McFarland, No. 19, G.R., Canada.

WESTMINSTER, U. D.—T. J. Armstrong, Geo. Brine, W. E. Vanstone, A. J. Brine, R. K. Chapman, D. E. Mac-

kenzie, R. B. Kelly, F. Ambrose, R. Eden Walker and D. P. Sanderson, No. 98, G.R., Canada; David Murchie, No. 2, G.R., Nova Scotia.

Application has also been presented by a number of Companions residing in the town of Toronto Junction, where there is a very prosperous blue lodge, and two others in the near vicinity. The petition is accompanied by the endorsation of the city of Toronto Chapters, but owing to the very recent date of the presentation, it lacks the certificate of the Grand Superintendent as to the possession of necessary equipment and paraphernalia.

From returns received to the present, the increase in membership is in the neighborhood of 350, while the losses by withdrawal, suspension and death number about 70.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. J. BENNETT,

Grand Scribe E.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER.

HUGH MURRAY, GRAND TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH
GRAND CHAPTER.

1899.	DR.	
Jan'y 26, To	Balance, as per Statement, at this date.	\$2556 94
Mar. 15,	Grand Scribe E, Cash	200 00
June 2,	" " Interest, Toronto Industrial School Bonds	340 00
July 16,	Grand Scribe E., General Trusts Company Bond	40 00
Dec. 2,	" " Toronto Industrial School Bonds	340 00
Dec. 11,	" " Cash	200 00
Dec. 30,	" " "	500 00
Dec. 30,	" " Interest, General Trusts Bond	40 00
1900.		
Jan'y 5,	" " Cash	500 00
Jan'y 18,	" " "	961 30
	Total	\$5678 24

1899.	CR.	
Jan'y,	By Order 898, Dudley & Burns, Printing Circulars, etc. \$	25 25
Feb'y	" 901, Hospital for Sick Children	500 00
	" 902, Foreign Correspondence	100 00
	" 903, Grand Scribe E., Balance Incidentals..	62 90

Feb'y,	By order	904, Comp. Alex. Hebbin, Grand Janitor...	5 00
	"	905, Mrs. S. H. Blondheim.....	15 00
	"	907, Mrs. Philip J. Thomas.....	10 00
	"	908, Mrs. Chas. A. Burden.....	10 00
	"	909, Mrs. John Kennedy.....	10 00
	"	910, Mrs. Ed. Hill.....	10 00
	"	911, Mrs. T. D. Harington.....	20 00
	"	912, Miss Lily Kerr.....	5 00
	"	913, Mrs. John Vaux.....	10 00
	"	914, Comp. A. Couper.....	20 00
	"	915, Mrs. C. E. Black... ..	5 00
	"	916, D. McLeod's Mother.....	10 00
	"	917, Mrs. W. B. Wallace.....	5 00
	"	918, Mrs. J. S. Baker.....	5 00
	"	919, Mrs. W. Merrich.....	7 50
	"	920, Mrs. Peter Grant.....	10 00
	"	921, Comp. C. R. Barker.....	15 00
	"	922, Comp. C. W. Brown.....	25 00
	"	923, Comp. F. G. Gassion.....	25 00
	"	924, Grand Scribe E., Rent, Office and Vault	37 50
	"	925, " " for Office Furnishings	46 00
	"	926, " " for Shelving, etc.....	25 22
	"	927, D. Henderson, Eugrossing Warrants...	8 00
	"	928, Hunter Rose Co., Stationery, Etc...	6 00
March	"	929, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates.....	30 00
	"	930, Grand Scribe E., for Incidentals.....	125 00
	"	931, Testimonial to M. E. Comp. Walsh...	250 00
	"	932, Copp, Clark & Co., Stationery.....	3 75
	"	933, M. E. Comp. Walsh, Bal. of Expenses.	9 25
	"	934, R. E. Comp. Hall, Exps., Stratford...	5 15
	"	935, Grand Treasurer, Salary.....	12 50
	"	936, Grand Scribe E., Salary.....	175 00
April,	"	937, Dudley & Burns, Proceedings, 1899....	252 55
	"	938, R. E. Comp. Conolly, Expenses <i>re</i> Mt. Nebo Chapter.....	5 00
May,	"	939, M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason, <i>re</i> Ballot and Grand C. Expenses.....	30 00
	"	940, Grand Scribe E., Rent, Jan. to June ..	75 00
June,	"	941, John Kay, Son & Co., Floor Covering..	19 58
	"	942, Mrs. John Munroe.....	5 00
	"	943, Grand Treasurer's Salary.....	12 50
	"	944, Grand Scribe E., Salary.....	175 00
	"	945, Grand Z., Expenses to date.....	83 63
July,	"	946, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates.....	30 00
	"	947, American Security Co., Grand Scribe E., Bond.....	7 50
	"	948, Dudley & Burns, Printing "Work"...	180 00
	"	949, American Security Co., Grand Treas- urer, Bond.....	7 50
August,	"	950, Mrs. S. H. Blondheim.....	15 00
	"	951, Mrs. John Munroe.....	5 00
	"	952, Mrs. Philip J. Thomas.....	10 00

Aug., by order	953, Mrs. Chas. A. Burden.....	10 00
"	954, Mrs. John Kennedy.....	10 00
"	955, Mrs. Ed. Hill.....	10 00
"	956, Mrs. T. D. Harington.....	20 00
"	957, Miss Lily Kerr.....	5 00
"	958, Mrs. John Vaux	10 00
"	959, Comp. A. Couper.....	20 00
"	960, Mrs. C. E. Black.....	5 00
"	961, D. McLeod's Mother.....	10 00
"	962, Mrs. W. B. Wallace.....	5 00
"	963, Mrs. J. S. Baker	5 00
"	964, Mrs. W. Merriott.....	7 50
"	965, Mrs. Peter Grant.....	10 00
"	967, Comp. C. W. Brown.....	25 00
"	968, Comp. F. P. Gassion.....	25 00
Oct.,	969, Grand Treasurer's Salary.....	12 50
"	970, Grand Scribe E., Salary.	175 00
"	971, M. Ex. Grand Z., Expenses to Boston Centenary.....	60 00
Nov.,	972, Robert Johnstone, Carpenter work ...	7 10
"	973, James Casey, Lettering Office Door... ..	4 00
"	974, M. E. Grand Z., Expenses to date.....	80 00
Dec.,	975, Grand Scribe E., Rent to date.....	75 00
"	976, Grand Treasurer's Salary.....	12 50
"	977, Grand Scribe E., Salary.....	175 00
"	978, Comp. W. Tocher, Grand Janitor.....	5 00
"	979, Dudley & Burns, Printing.....	13 75
1900.		
Jan.,	979 ¹ / ₂ , Hunter Rose Co., Printing, etc.....	59 50
"	980, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates.....	60 00
"	981, M. E. Grand Z., Expenses to date....	31 35
Total.....		\$3504 67

STATEMENT OF ASSETS OF GRAND CHAPTER, 19TH JANUARY, 1900.

Bonds, Toronto General Trusts Company, @ 4%.....	\$2,000 00
Bonds, Toronto Industrial School, @ 4%.....	17,000 00
Cash in Canadian Bank of Commerce	2,173 57
Total	\$21,173 57

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE,

HAMILTON, 19th January, 1900.

We hereby certify that the above-named bonds are in the custody of this Bank for safe keeping, on account of Hugh Murray, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, and that the balance at the credit of the said Hugh Murray, as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, on the books of the Bank, at the close of business at this date, is two

thousand one hundred and seventy-three dollars and fifty-seven cents.

Bonds...\$19,000 00

Cash... 2,173 57

\$21,173 57

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

WM. ROBERTS, *Manager*.

E. P. GOWER, *Accountant*.

Fraternally submitted,

HUGH MURRAY,

Grand Treasurer.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the Statements of the Grand Scribe E. and Grand Treasurer, for the year 1899, be received and referred to the Executive Committee, for audit and to report thereon at the present Convocation.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

Letters expressing regret at inability to be present were received from M. E. Comp. Kivas Tully, Toronto; R. E. Comp. J. C. Morgan, Barrie; W. B. McArthur, Ottawa; N. T. Lyon, Toronto.

The Grand Scribe E. read the following communication from R. E. Comp. W. Forbes, of Grimsby, Representative of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.

GRIMSBY, Jan. 23rd, 1900.

G. J. BENNETT, ESQ.,

Grand Scribe E., Grand Chapter of Canada, in Grand Chapter assembled, London.

MY DEAR COMP. BENNETT:—Please extend to Grand Chapter my regrets that I am unable to attend meeting of Grand Chapter, which I had with pleasure anticipated, but the death of my only son, Wm. Duncan, known to many in Grand Chapter, which took place last evening, renders it impossible.

As the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Illinois I desire to extend the greetings of that Grand Chapter and to wish you a pleasant, profitable and harmonious session. With fraternal greetings to Grand Chapter and yourself,

I am, fraternally yours,

WM. FORBES,

*Past Grand Supt. Niagara District,
and Representative of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.*

A communication from R. E. Comp. Andrew P. Swanstrom, Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada, near the Grand Chapter of Minnesota, acknowledging receipt of his credentials as same, and stating that he had duly presented them at the Annual Convocation of that Grand body on the 10th October, 1899, and was accorded the usual honors. Comp. Swanstrom on that occasion was elected to the office of Deputy Grand High Priest.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY.

It was moved by M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, and

Resolved.—That this Grand Chapter, in Convocation assembled, has learned with sincere regret of the death of Comp. William Duncan Forbes, only son of our dearly beloved Right Excellent Comp. Wm. Forbes, of Grimsby, and directs the Grand Scribe E. to convey to the bereaved father and the members of his family, the heart-felt sympathy and condolence of the Royal Arch Masons of Canada in their trying bereavement, and prays the Good God, who has the care of His children always before Him, and who in His great mercy has relieved our Companion from his sufferings, and taken him home to Himself, will give to his mourning relatives the consolation of His Holy Spirit and the ability to say from their hearts, “He doeth all things well! His will be done.”

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. Ex. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented the report of that Committee, which on motion of R. Ex. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. A. Shaw, was received and ordered to be printed as an Appendix to the Proceedings.

The Executive Committee presented the report on

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

To the M. E. the Grand Z. and the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Your Committee on Audit and Finance desire to report that they have examined the books, vouchers, etc., of the Grand Scribe E., and Grand Treasurer, together with the Bank statement to 31st December, 1899, finding agreement and accuracy in every respect.

The following is statement of Receipts and Disbursements for year :—

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand 25th January, 1899.....	\$2556 94
Certificates.....	519 00
Fees.....	515 50
Dues.....	1178 60
Dispensation.....	86 00
Constitutions.....	38 20
Interest, "Industrial Bonds".....	680 00
" Toronto General Trusts.....	80 00
Sundries.....	24 00
Total Receipts.....	\$5678 24

DISBURSEMENTS.

Orders on Benevolence.....	\$ 430 00
Hospital for Sick Children.....	500 00
Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates.....	120 00
Foreign Correspondence.....	100 00
Salary, Grand Scribe E.....	700 00
" Grand Treasurer.....	50 00
Rent, Temple Building, 1½ years.....	187 50
Printing Proceedings, Dudley & Burns.....	446 30
" Hunter Rose Co.....	65 50
" Copp, Clark & Co.....	3 75
Expenses, M. Ex. Grand Z.....	194 98
" " " Boston Centennial.....	60 00
" M. Ex. Comp. Walsh, Balance.....	9 25
" Grand Council, Hamilton.....	30 00
Office Furniture, Book Case, etc., 1898.....	72 32
Testimonial, Most Ex. Comp. Walsh.....	250 00
John Kay & Co., Floor Covering.....	19 58
Expenses, Grand Superintendents, No. 6 and 7 Districts.....	10 15
Services, Grand Janitor, Stratford and Hamilton.....	10 00
D. Henderson, Engrossing Warrants.....	8 00
Incidentals, Balance, Grand Scribe E.....	62 09
" Advance, ".....	125 00
Bonds, Grand Scribe E., and Grand Treasurer.....	15 00
Sundries, Assistance, Removing goods, etc., 1898.....	10 00
Dudley & Burns, Printing Circulars, etc.....	25 25
Total Disbursements.....	\$3504 67
Balance on hand in Bank of Commerce.....	2173 57
	\$5678 24

INVESTMENTS.

Industrial Bonds.....	\$17000 00
Toronto General Trusts.....	2000 00
Balance, Bank of Commerce.....	2173 57
Total Investments.....	\$21173 57

LIABILITIES.

Grants for Benevolence	\$ 500 00
Foreign Correspondence	100 00
National Patriotic Fund Grant	300 00
Incidentals, Grand Scribe E., Advance.....	125 00
“ “ “ Balance	16 50
“ History of Freemasonry,” M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson.	60 00
	\$1101 50

Your Committee note with much pleasure the general prosperity which has attended the Royal Craft throughout the jurisdiction, as shown by a net increase of membership of 280 during the year.

Your Committee would recommend that this Grand Chapter donate the sum of three hundred dollars to the “National Patriotic Fund,” that has for its object the welfare of those dependent upon our Canadian soldiers, who have voluntarily gone to South Africa in defence of the British Empire.

Your Committee also recommend that this Grand Chapter purchase five sets of Most Ex. Comp. J. Ross Robertson’s work, “History of Freemasonry in Canada,” bound in morocco, one set to be presented to The Mother Grand Chapter of England, The General Grand Chapter of the United States, and to The Grand Chapter of Victoria ; two sets to be retained by Grand Chapter.

Further, we desire to express our great satisfaction at the manner in which the work of your Grand Scribe E., and Grand Treasurer is performed : books and statement not only neat and correct, but the business-like manner in which the work is performed, shows the ability of those to whom the Grand Chapter has intrusted this important work.

A. SHAW,

Chairman of Committee on Audit and Finance.

London, 24th January, 1900.

Moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the Report of the Executive Committee on Audit and Finance be received and adopted.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

It is hard to realize that another year has passed since we met together in the city of Stratford to deliberate upon matters of interest to the Grand Chapter of Canada, but such is the case, and it is a matter of congratulation that so many have been spared to be present at this meeting to renew our friendships and to welcome those who come to Grand Chapter for the first time.

Your Committee have again had the pleasure of revising the reports of the Superintendents of the several Districts, and it is with satisfaction we note how faithful they have been in the discharge of their duties and how conscientious most of them have been in visiting the various Chapters under their jurisdiction.

Your Committee are pleased to be able to report a marked improvement, not only in membership, but in the prosperous condition that most of the Chapters were found to be in by the different Superintendents. The membership has largely increased, the financial condition is good and the books of the Scribe E. were usually found to be well kept. There are only five Chapters which can be termed "weak Chapters," viz, St. John, No. 12, at Morrisburg; Seymour, No. 38, at Shelburne; Pembroke, No. 58, at Mattawa, Golden, No. 90, at Rat Portage, and Brant, No. 115, at Paris. Your Committee do not feel disposed this year to recommend their being struck off the roll, but suggest that the new Superintendents look carefully after them and if there is no improvement that some definite action be taken next year.

Your Committee finds that only two of the District Superintendents held Chapters of Instruction, both of which were attended by the M. E., the Grand Z., and it is expected much good will accrue from the holding of such meetings. It is to be regretted that more of the Superintendents did not pursue the same course, as there is no doubt but that Chapters of Instruction are of great benefit in securing uniformity in the work in the different degrees.

Your Committee cannot speak too highly of the good work which has been done by the Most Excellent the Grand Z. in the many visits he has paid during the past year. He has been

indefatigable in his work and his visits have been productive of great good, and the addresses he gave to the Companions have been full of sound advice and of great benefit in stimulating zeal and interest in the work of the Royal Craft.

Your Committee have again to refer to the large amount outstanding for dues and the aggregate is really astonishing. It is hardly to be expected that the Chapter can have its dues all paid up, there are a few exceptions, however, but there are some Chapters where the amount is altogether too large in proportion to the membership. We do not see how the Chapter can prosper or make much headway with so much outstanding for dues. The attention of the Scribe E. of the Chapters is particularly drawn to the necessity of looking after the dues. There is no doubt a strong reluctance on the part of the Principals of the Chapters to deal with delinquent members, but is it not often better to meet the difficulty early in the career of a member going behind every year than to be carrying him for a long time and then eventually be suspended. It is suggested, in order that the optional power which the Z. possesses as to reading out names and suspending Companions, that the By-laws of the Chapter should be amended so that at June stated meeting in each year it shall be the duty of the Scribe E. to read out the name of every Companion over twelve months in arrear for dues, and then the matter is before the Chapter to be dealt with as it may see fit, the responsibility is thereby transferred from the Z. to the Chapter as a whole.

The Superintendent of St. Clair District says :—"Capitular Masonry in this district is improving, although the increase in membership in some of the Chapters has not been as great as might be expected. I think that Royal Arch Masonry in this district may be said to be in a fairly good and prosperous condition." We are pleased to notice that Prince of Wales Chapter, No. 71, which had been reported for the last two years in an almost dormant state, is reported as a good working and well conducted Chapter, full of enthusiasm. May the good work continue. Two Chapters in this district failed to send in their returns of work done.

The report from London District is an encouraging one. The Superintendent says :—"To say that I am pleased with the condition of affairs of the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction is putting it mild, every Chapter in London District, No. 2, is full of life and energy and all are progressing in a marked

"manner. The seven Chapters which comprise the district "are all most comfortably quartered, well off financially, increasing in desirable material, and what is perhaps best, working in the greatest love and harmony." He refers with regret that too many members in some parts of the district are allowed to get behind with their dues, and calls upon the Scribes E. to look closely after the collecting of the same. In this district also two Chapters failed to send in their returns.

The Superintendent of Wilson District reports that on the whole there is a decided improvement. All the Chapters with one exception have increased in membership and a general feeling of hopefulness seems to prevail among the Companions. Owing to illness and professional engagements the Superintendent was unable to visit all the Chapters. He asks that the incoming Superintendent should give his early attention to Brant Chapter, No. 115, as the prospects of the Chapter are poor.

The Superintendent of Wellington District reports that he visited four out of the six Chapters in his district, and although it was his intention to visit the other two he was unable to do so. In the case of Waterloo Chapter, No. 32, he assigns the reason for not visiting it was on account of not having received any notice of meetings until December, when absence from home prevented him from doing so. It is a pity that when a couple of months had passed and he had received no notice he did not write to the Scribe E. and remind him of his duty and then he could have ascertained if the Chapter was holding any meetings. He hopes that his successor will not make the same error as he did by taking too much for granted. As to Seymour Chapter, No. 38, this is one of the weak Chapters previously referred to, and something must be done during the coming year or its charter will have to be surrendered. No good is to be gained by allowing it to go on as it appears to have done for the last few years. As to the Chapters visited by the Superintendent he says:—"That in each and all of them I found that the interest taken in Capitular Masonry was active and well sustained, and that the addition to the membership during the year was considerable."

From the brief report of the Superintendent of the Hamilton District we find he visited the four Chapters in his district and found them all doing their work well and increasing in membership, and that peace and harmony prevails. One Chapter had not sent in any returns.

The report of the Superintendent of Huron District contains an interesting account of the Chapter of Instruction held by the Superintendent, at which the M. E. the Grand Z. was present. Much good is anticipated from the meeting. We regret to notice that the membership in this district decreased, the reason of which the Superintendent was unable to explain. Better results are hoped for next year.

The Superintendent of Niagara District states that he regrets exceedingly that owing to circumstances over which he had no control he was not able to visit all the Chapters in his district but is confident that the Royal Craft is not suffering, but on the contrary, is in a very flourishing condition generally. We have to congratulate Grimsby Chapter, No. 69, on the good work it has done, the membership having increased from 28 to 49.

An excellent report comes from the Superintendent of the Toronto District. He visited all the Chapters in the district, and with the exception of one Chapter he visited all the others several times. He adopted the rule, which is a good one, of not notifying them of his intended visit, by which means, he considers, he saw more of the inner life of the Chapter than he could have done by any other means. Absolute harmony has reigned throughout the district. We are pleased to notice that all the city Chapters now have their funds deposited in some one of the chartered banks. The Companions in this district are overwhelmingly in favor of the restoration of the old work of the M. E. M. Degree and of placing the minimum fee for the degrees at \$20. The Chapters are all progressing, the officers painstaking and attentive to their duties.

A good report comes from the Superintendent of Georgian District. He states that all the Chapters are in good condition and working harmoniously. It appears that MacPherson Chapter, No. 86, has changed its night of meeting under the terms of a resolution, but the change does not seem to have been embodied in an amendment to the by-laws. The correction of this irregularity should be attended to by the incoming Superintendent, and the officers of the Chapter notified to remedy the mistake at once if they want to do their business legally.

From the report of the Superintendent of Ontario District, we find that he visited all the Chapters in the district and states that the majority are in good working order, balance

fair. Their financial condition is good and future prospects bright. It is with pleasure we note that Warkworth Chapter, No. 110, by previous reports the only weak Chapter in the district, was found to be altogether different and the prospects good.

The Superintendent of Prince Edward District seems to have been faithful in the discharge of his duties, having visited all the Chapters but one. He reports that, on the whole, the Royal Craft is prospering, moderately it may be, and justifies the hope that another year will show still further improvement. No returns have been received from any of the Chapters in this district.

From the excellent report of the Superintendent of St. Lawrence District, we find the various Chapters with the exception of St. John's, No. 112, to be in a prosperous condition and membership slightly increased. As to St. John's, we hope the that the efforts of the Superintendent to infuse new life into it will meet with success and that a good report may be heard of it next year. The Superintendent is to be congratulated on the success of the Chapter of Instruction which he held in Kingston. We note with pleasure that R. E. Comp. Shaw, Grand Third Principal, has done a large amount of good by visiting with the Superintendent. It is characteristic of the zeal and energy which the R. E. Comp. has always shewn in promoting the interests of Royal Arch Masonry.

The report of the Superintendent of Ottawa District is short but concise. He visited all the Chapters but one, and finds that they are doing fairly well, meeting regularly, doing good work and living in perfect harmony with one another. He reports Pembroke Chapter, No. 58, as being practically dead and recommends that the charter be asked for.

The Superintendent of Algoma District was only able to visit two out of the four Chapters in his district. This was owing to the great size of the district, and which is excusable under the circumstances. No doubt the new Superintendent will be able to visit those not visited this year. The prospects are good for the Chapters which were visited.

The report of the Superintendent of Manitoba District is not an encouraging one. For some reason Royal Arch Masonry does not make that progress in Manitoba that it should, and the reason given by the Superintendent is no doubt the correct one, viz.: "There does not appear to be enough material in the vicinity of the small towns with a

“single Blue Lodge to keep alive a Royal Arch Chapter. Not much zeal can be expected to be shewn when there are no candidates.” The amalgamation of Prince Rupert Chapter, No. 52, and Signet, No. 105, was no doubt a wise move under existing circumstances, and we hope that the future of Prince Rupert Chapter will be a successful one. The Superintendent appears to have been faithful in the discharge of his duty and to have done all he could for the interests of Royal Arch Masonry.

The Superintendent of British Columbia District reports that the condition of the Royal Craft is “good.” The three Chapters were all visited by him, and he found them all prosperous and enthusiastic in their work and hopeful for the future. We are glad to note that two applications for dispensations were received, one from Nelson and one from New Westminster, both of which have been granted by the Most Ex. the Grand Z. The Scottish Chapter at Nanaimo, has shewn some feeble desire to cast in its lot with us, but it has not progressed very far ; we hope, however, it may soon join us.

The report of the Superintendent of Alberta District is an encouraging one. Considering the immense territory comprising the district in which the three Chapters are situated, we must commend the Superintendent for his zeal in visiting them all. He reports that harmony prevails. They have all made fair progress during the year and are all in good financial standing. He asks that visiting Companions from the east when able to do so, would encourage the Chapters by visiting them, the number of visitors is small.

Your Committee feel justified after reading the reports of the various Superintendents, in congratulating Grand Chapter on the good work which has been accomplished, and that the prospects for the coming year are bright.

Although the hand of death has not visited many of our Chapters, for which we are devoutly thankful, still we are called upon to mourn the loss of several distinguished Companions, among whom we can name R. E. Comp. R. A. McKay, of Palestine Chapter, No. 54, whose kindly presence will be missed, as he was a regular and faithful attendant at Grand Chapter ; R. E. Comp. Louis A. Congdon, of McCallum Chapter, No. 29, Past Grand Superintendent ; R. Ex. Comp. J. W. Munro, Grand Superintendent of the Ottawa District. Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui Chapter mourns the loss of

R. E. Comp. Waddington, Ex. Comp. Rowland, and its Scribe "E.," Comp. Fortescue.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM ROAF,
Chairman.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. W. Roaf, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry be received and adopted.

WARRANTS.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

Your Committee on Warrants beg to report that the Companions of New Westminster, working under dispensation from the Grand Z. for the last three months, not having forwarded their minute book for examination, we recommend that the dispensation be continued.

The Grand Z. having granted dispensation to the Companions of the City of Nelson, B.C., to form a Chapter on November 28th, 1899, we find no evidence of their having held any meeting, their minute book not being present for inspection. We recommend that the dispensation be continued.

An application has been received from the Companions of Toronto Junction to form a new Chapter. Owing to the application being late in reaching the Grand Scribe E., the Grand Superintendent of the Toronto District has not been able to report as to their having the necessary paraphernalia. This application has received the endorsement of all the Chapters in the city of Toronto. We therefore recommend that the Grand Z. issue a dispensation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. BIRRELL, *Chairman.*

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. Birrell, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on Warrants be received and adopted.

BENEVOLENCE.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z, Principals and Officers
of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada :*

The Executive Committee of Grand Chapter on Grants for Benevolent Purposes beg leave to report.

Your Committee have examined the applications sent in by subordinate Chapters, and would recommend that the following grants be made :—

Chapter No.	1.	Mrs. S. H. Blondheim.....	\$30 00
"	"	" Comp. John Munro.....	20 00
"	"	2. Mrs. Chas. E. Burdon.....	20 00
"	"	" Eliza M. J. Thomas.....	20 00
"	"	6. " John Kennedy.....	20 00
"	"	" Edmund Hill.....	20 00
"	"	" Sarah Holman (new).....	20 00
"	"	8. " T. D. Harington	40 00
"	"	16. " Miss Kerr.....	10 00
"	"	24. " Mrs. Jane Vaux.....	20 00
"	"	28. Comp. Chas. W. Smith (new)	40 00
"	"	29. " Archibald Couper	40 00
"	"	" Mrs. C. E. S. Black.....	10 00
"	"	35. Comp. Frederick Mudge (new).....	40 00
"	"	37. Mrs. W. B. Wallace.....	10 00
"	"	" J. S. Baker.....	20 00
"	"	44. " Hugh Rankin (new).....	30 00
"	"	54. " Peter Grant.....	20 00
"	"	" William Merriott.....	15 00
"	"	65. Comp. Chas. W. Brown	50 00
"	"	77. " Frank P. Gassion.....	50 00
			\$545 00
Grants last year amounted to.....			440 00
Increase			\$105 00

Notwithstanding that attention was drawn in last report to the fact that some of the Chapters had not contributed to the beneficiaries on whose behalf application was made to Grand Chapter for assistance, a few of the Chapters, on the present occasion, have again failed to contribute. Your Committee have once more overlooked their failure to comply with this provision, but in future, applications from Chapters who have not contributed in accordance therewith will be rejected.

A number of Chapters have also failed to secure the signatures of beneficiaries to the applications sent in, or have offered any sufficient excuse for their neglect in this respect. One Chapter forwarded two applications signed by the beneficiaries, but without answering any of the questions. Your Committee recommend that in future such applications be not entertained.

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN E. HARDING, *Chairman.*

It was moved by R. E. Comp. Gibson seconded by Ex. Comp. J. E. Harding and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on Benevolence be received and adopted.

GRAND Z's. ADDRESS.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

The Executive Committee beg leave to present the following report :—

The Committee fully concur in the patriotic sentiments expressed by the Most Excellent the Grand Z. in the first and second paragraphs of his address, as the Grand Z. therein voices one of the leading characteristics of Free Masons.

The Committee joins in the expression of regret with reference to the death of our R. Ex. Companions Congdon and Munro, and concurs with his expression of regret at the loss sustained by our sister jurisdictions during the past year.

The Committee are pleased to learn that the condition of the Royal Craft during the past year has been successful and harmonious, and heartily join with the Grand Z. in congratulating Grand Chapter on the substantial progress made during that period, to which the visits of the Grand Z., numbering thirty, no doubt contributed in no small degree. The Committee congratulate the Grand Chapter on the addition of two Chapters at Nelson and New Westminster, B.C. The Committee trust that the expectations of the Most Excellent the Grand Z. as to the result of the union of Signet and Prince Rupert Chapters of Winnipeg may be realized in greater harmony and strength.

The Committee concur in the decisions of the Most Excellent the Grand Z.

The Committee concur with pleasure in the appointments made by the Grand Z to fill vacancies in the list of Grand Representatives and in the appointments made by the Grand Chapters of Kentucky, South Carolina, Kansas, Florida and Maryland.

The Committee concur in the recommendation of the Grand Z. on the restoration of degree of the M. E. M.

The Committee approve of the appointment of R. Ex. Comp. Luke to the position of the Grand Superintendent of the Ottawa District, rendered vacant by the lamented death of R. Ex. Comp. Munro, of Almonte.

The Committee desire to express their pleasure at the cordial reception extended to the Most Excellent the Grand Z. on his visit to Boston at the centenary celebration of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts and cordially reciprocate in the kind feeling exemplified by the Companions on that occasion.

Faternally submitted,

M. WALSH, *Chairman.*

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on the address of the M. E. the Grand Z. be received and adopted.

ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER NO. 6 V. GRIMSBY CHAPTER NO. 69.

The Executive Committee having as a whole taken the above complaint into consideration, the following resolution duly carried by that body was submitted and ratified.

“In the matter of the complaint of St. John's Chapter No. 6, Hamilton, against Grimsby Chapter No. 69, Grimsby, for alleged invasion of territory claimed by the former. It was moved by M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. T. Toner, and

Resolved,—That as the alleged invasion has been admitted, this Committee expresses disapproval of the course pursued by the offending Chapter and recommends that the fee collected by Grimsby Chapter be handed over to St. John's Chapter No. 6, Hamilton, and trusts that in future the provisions of the Constitution in this connection will be strictly adhered to.”

RECEPTION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The following Grand Representatives, having presented their credentials, were introduced to Grand Chapter and were received with Grand Honors :—

R. E. Comp.	A. B. Munson	Florida.
"	" J. M. Gibson	Kansas
"	" W. Walker	Kentucky.
"	" R. G. W. Conolly	Maryland.

MINIMUM FEE FOR THE DEGREES.

In the absence of R. E. Comp. N. T. Lyon, of Toronto, who had given notice, R. E. Comp. W. Birrell moved, seconded by R. E. Comp. Douglas Ponton,—

That Section 2, Article 4. of the Constitution be amended by striking out the word "ten" in the fourth line, and substituting therefor the word "twenty."

It was moved in amendment, by M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by Ex. Comp. J. C. Gray : that the presentation of a suit of R.A. regalia to each candidate exalted, be a supplement to the motion.

The amendment being ruled out of order, the original motion was, after discussion, put to Grand Chapter, but not receiving the necessary two-thirds majority, was declared *lost*.

THE GRAND SCRIBE N.

In accordance with notice, it was moved by R. E. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, seconded by M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, and

Resolved, — That the following be substituted for Section 24, Article 3, page 22 of the Constitution :—

"It shall be the duty of the Grand Scribe N. to assist the Grand Scribe E. in the discharge of his duties when called upon at Convocations of Grand Chapter."

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

In accordance with notice, it was moved by M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the following be substituted for Section 4, Article 2, of the Constitution, page 14 :—

No Grand Officer who has been duly elected by the Grand Chapter can be removed or suspended from his office by the Grand "Z" except for cause ; and his suspension or removal must be ratified by a majority of the members present at the next following regular Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter. The Grand "Z" shall lay before such Grand Convocation a statement of the removal or suspension, together with his reasons therefor. If the action of the Grand "Z" be ratified by such Grand Convocation, another officer must at such Convocation of said Grand Chapter be elected or appointed in his stead. This includes the Grand Janitor.

"a." Any Grand Officer of this Grand Chapter may resign his office either before or after his installation ; whereupon the Grand "Z" may fill the vacancy by appointing another suitable Companion to such office until the next regular Convocation of Grand Chapter, whether the Officer resigning be appointed or elected.

Section 7. Add "until next Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter."

COMMITTEE ON BENEVOLENCE.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar, seconded by E. Comp. A. Findlay : that the retiring member of the Committee on Benevolence be continued a member of the Committee for the term of three years.

The motion being put to Grand Chapter, it was declared carried unanimously.

The following Companions comprise the Committee on Benevolence, and are members of the Executive Committee of Grand Chapter for their respective terms :—

R. E. Comp.	J. S. Dewar, London,	retires in 1901
M. " "	R. B. Hungerford, London,	" 1902
M. " "	J. E. Harding, Lindsay,	" 1903

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The M. E. the Grand Z. appointed as scrutineers of the ballot, M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding and R. E. Comps. John Leslie and W. Kennedy.

The results of the elections were declared as follows :—

M. E. Comp.	W. G. Reid, Hamilton, Grand Z.,	Re-elected.
R. E. Comp.	W. Gibson, Beamsville, Grand H.,	"
" "	A. Shaw, Kingston, Grand J.,	"
" "	G. J. Bennett, Toronto, Grand S.E.,	"
" "	Hugh Murray, Hamilton, Grand Treas.,	"

Grand Chapter was then called off for the space of fifteen minutes to enable the districts to select their Grand Superintendents for the ensuing year.

Grand Chapter resumed labour, when the following nominations were submitted to the M. E. the Grand Z., who was pleased to approve in each case, and the selections were confirmed.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	J. G. Crosby, Highgate,	St. Clair	Dist. No. 1
" "	J. D. Balfour, M.D., London,	London	" " 2
" "	J. H. Spence, Brantford,	Wilson	" " 3
" "	W. Savage, M.D., Guelph,	Wellington	" " 4
" "	W. F. Miller, Hamilton,	Hamilton	" " 5
" "	Chris. McLellan, Stratford,	Huron	" " 6
" "	Geo. Hyatt, Niagara Falls S.,	Niagara	" " 7
" "	J. Wesley Jones, Toronto,	Toronto	" " 8
" "	J. T. Lovell, North Bay,	Georgian	" " 9
" "	W. G. Coulter, Port Hope,	Ontario	" " 10
" "	J. Earl Halliwell, Stirling,	Pr. Edward	" " 11
" "	Jonathan Greene, Brockville,	S. Lawrence	" " 12
" "	Nelson W. Cleary, Renfrew,	Ottawa	" " 13
" "	R. H. Arthur, M.D., Sudbury,	Algonia	" " 14
" "	Allan Stewart, Morden,	Manitoba	" " 15
" "	E. E. Chipman, Kaslo,	British Columbia	" " 16
" "	A. W. R. Markley, Calgary,	Alberta Dist.	" " 17

The election of Grand Officers was then resumed with the following results :—

R. E. Comp.	Alex. Findlay, London,	Grand Scribe N.
" "	J. J. Thompson, Toronto,	Grand Prin. Sojr.
" "	W. J. McAllister, Hamilton,	Grand Registrar.
" "	J. H. Pritchard, Toronto	Grand Janitor.

The following Companions were elected members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year :—

R. E. Comp.	W. Roaf	Toronto
" "	D. H. Martyn, M.D.	Kincardine
" "	D. F. MacWatt	Sarnia
" "	W. Birrell	Hamilton
" "	W. Kennedy, M.D.	Vittoria

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

The following places were nominated for the Annual Convocation in January, 1901 : Toronto, Windsor, Port Hope, and Cornwall. The result of the ballot gave the choice to Toronto by a large majority.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, Lindsay, gave notice that at the next Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter he would move that Sec. 15, Art. 1, of the Constitution, page 16, be amended by adding after the word "Scribes" in the seventh line the words "and the Grand Treasurer."

Ex. Comp. E. J. W. Burton, Port Hope, that Section 9, Art. 1, of the Constitution, be amended by adding after the word "elected" in the 12th line, "provided that in the case of the three Grand Principals no Companion can be renominated for a second term in the same office."

R. E. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, Sarnia, that Section 2, Art. 2, page 13, of the Constitution, be amended by erasing the words, "of the Chapter," in the fourth line, and also by erasing the words from "and" in the twelfth line to the word "Chapter," in the thirteenth line.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, assisted by M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, then proceeded with the installation and investiture of the newly elected officers, who were proclaimed and saluted with the usual honors.

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

The following Companions were subsequently appointed by the M. E. the Grand Z. to office in Grand Chapter :

V. E. Comp.	J. E. Sanagan, Stratford,	Grand 1st Asst. Sojourner
" "	Spencer Love, Toronto,	" 2nd " "
R. E. "	J. B. Nixon, Toronto,	" Lecturer
V. E. "	James Evans, Port Hope,	" Sword Bearer
" "	W. J. Carson, London,	" Master of 1st Veil
" "	A. J. Meiklejohn, M.D., Stirling,	" Master of 2nd Veil
" "	A. L. Hughes, Brantford,	" Master of 3rd Veil
" "	R. Mahony, Jr., Guelph,	" Master of 4th Veil
" "	Jas. Craig, Renfrew,	" Standard Bearer.
" "	W. H. Robinson, Oakville,	" Direct'r of Ceremonies
" "	N. J. Fraed, Cornwall,	" Organist
" "	W. H. Switzer, Dresden,	" Pursuivant
" "	W. A. Ducker, Winnipeg,	" Steward
" "	R. H. Knight, Sault Ste. Marie,	" Steward
" "	G. A. Mitchell, Rossland,	" Steward
" "	D. C. Robertson, Edmonton,	" Steward

The M. E. the Grand Z. further appointed the under-mentioned Companions to the Executive Committee :

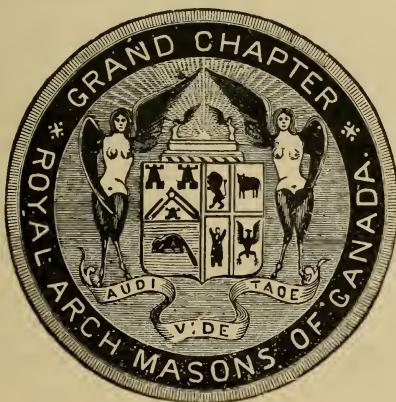
R. E. Comp.	W. T. Toner	Collingwood
" "	W. B. McArthur	Ottawa
" "	Robt. Scott	Petrolea
" "	R. G. W. Conolly	Dunnville
V. E. "	Chas. F. Mansell	Toronto

VOTE OF THANKS.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the cordial thanks of this Grand Chapter are due and are hereby tendered to the Companions of the London Chapters, for their kindly attention and fraternal reception of the officers and members of Grand Chapter, as well as for the arrangements made for the Forty-Second Annual Convocation of this Grand Body.

The labors of Grand Chapter being ended, it was closed in **Ample Form**.



Geo. J. Bennett

Grand Scribe E.

LONDON, 24th January, A.I. 2430, A.D. 1900.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31ST DECEMBER, 1899.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Regular Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admissions.	Joinings.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	An. Front. and Cat'i.	Kingston	Third Wednesday	W. T. Minnes.	J. E. Cunningham.						3	69	3	
2	The Hiram	Hamilton	Fourth Friday	George Moore	Fred Walter	8	1	2	6		1	155	4	
3	St. John's	London	Fourth Wednesday	Wm. O'Brien	John Siddons	21	1	2	3	10	6	140	9	
4	St. And. and S. John.	Toronto	Third Friday	James G. Boyce	Walter H. Blight	5			4	6	1	113		
5	St. George's	London	Fourth Friday	S. F. Lawrason	Chas. C. Reed	14			2	3		128	5	
6	St. John's	Hamilton	Second Thursday	J. F. Wilson	W. J. McAllister	8			1		3	210	4	
7	Moirs	Belleville	First Tuesday	J. A. Phillips	Wm. McKeown	10				3	3	119	4	
8	King Solomon's	Toronto	First Friday	Edm. M. Carleton	John Roberts	4			2	7	4	154		
9	Wawanosh	Sarnia	Second Friday	J. B. Simpson	W. A. Wiggins	19	1		2	5	1	114	12	
10	Carleton	Otawa	Third Friday	John L. Culbert	W. G. S. Reynolds	3			1	3		74		
11	Oxford	Woodstock	Third Monday	J. C. Farthing	W. A. Biggins	2			1			53	1	
12	St. Catharines	St. Catharines	Friday on or after f. m.	Chas. G. McGhie	Wm. H. Read	3	1				1	94	3	
13	Brantford	Brantford	First Friday	J. H. Spence	S. F. Passmore	5			6			65		
14	Prescott	Prescott	Second Tuesday	J. A. Fleming	J. N. G. ahm							53		
15	Simcoe	Simcoe	Thursday after f. m.	Joseph G. Bottomley	W. P. Kelley	16			1			105	15	
16	Stratford	Stratford	First Monday	W. J. Mooney	R. R. Neill	1			6	4	1	99	10	
17	Trenton	Trenton	Tuesday after f. m.	W. O. Loth.	Robert Robertson	5						41	5	
18	Collingwood	Collingwood	Friday on or b. f. m.	G. W. Bruce	Frank B. Gregory	8	1					65	9	
19	Oshawa	Oshawa	Second Friday	E. O. Felt	L. K. Murton	1						45	1	
20	McCallum	Dunnville	Friday after f. m.	Geo. D. Robertson	James B. Sheehan	4					1	42	3	
21	Goderich	Goderich	Third Tuesday	Alex. Lawson	Wm. D. Tye	4			1			53	2	
22	Prince Edward	Pictou	Monday on or af. f. m.	Jas. H. Colder	Ed. W. Case	10			1	1	1	108	8	
23	Waterloo	Galt	Second Monday	J. W. Porteous	Charles Blake	4			3			51		
24	Signet	Barrie	Second Tuesday	Warren Johnson	W. J. Hallett	24				1	1	96	22	
25	Keystone	Whitby	Third Friday	R. L. Huggard	W. J. H. Richardson	3				1	1	52	2	
26	Corinthian	Peterboro'	Third Tuesday	W. H. Walkey	T. Newton Greer	1	1		1	3		66		
27	Victoria	Port Hope	Second Friday	J. W. Sanders	W. G. Coulter	5			1			61	4	
28	Seymour	Shelburne	Second Friday	J. A. McDowell	F. H. Spence	5			1			28		
29	Guelph	Guelph	Second Friday	James P. Boles	J. F. Williams	8				6	1	74	3	
30	Harris	Ingersoll	Second Friday	Thos. E. Anderson	J. G. Fennell							51	2	
31	Mount Sinai	Napanee	Wednesday after f. m.	Geo. E. R. Wilson	J. R. Fitzgerald	1			7	11	1	41	18	
32	Excelsior	Colborne	First Tuesday	H. Fred Sharpe	Fred S. Sharp	1	1					59		
33	St. James	St. Marys	Third Friday	Thomas Scullard	James Birch	5	1	1	1		1	27	1	
34	Wellington	Chatham	Second Thursday	U. H. Reynar	James Birch	5	1	1				47	5	
35	St. John's	Cobourg	Friday on or b. f. m.	C. M. French	Robert Birch	3						46	3	
36	Saugeen	Mitchell	Thursday on or b. f. m.	C. M. French	G. L. Birch				1			25		

52	Prince Rupert	Winnipeg	First Thursday	Robt. Magness	J. M. Cosgrave	7	10	8	130
53	Bruce	Petrolia	First Thursday	W. F. Cooper	S. McCann	10	3	1	93
54	Palestine	St. Thomas	Second Thursday	Chas. E. Edmonds	W. E. Idsardi	13	1	2	127
55	Niagara	Niagara	Thursday after f. m.	Rev. J. C. Garrett	J. H. Brown	8	3	2	19
56	Georgian	Owen Sound	First Tuesday	R. McDowell	John Rutherford	2	1	1	58
57	King Hiram	Port Colborne	Third Tuesday	F. D. Noble	Thos. J. O'Neill	6	1	1	20
58	Penbrooke	Mattawa	Third Tuesday	John de Sousa	A. N. Grassnell	2	1	1	35
59	Sussex	Brockville	Third Friday	George K. Dewey	W. W. Wool	6	1	2	77
60	Doric	Newmarket	First Wednesday	A. McMillan	J. E. Hughes	2	1	3	57
61	Granite	Almonte	Second Tuesday	L. Coulter	W. C. Pollack	3	1	3	37
62	York	Exlington	First Thursday	C. Moseley	W. E. Hofland	4	1	1	52
63	Havelock	Kincardine	Third Thursday	J. H. Scott	M. J. Macpherson	4	1	1	48
64	Willson	Welland	Last Wednesday	W. E. Barker	J. H. Crow	4	1	1	105
65	St. Paul's	Toronto	Second Wednesday	E. B. Brown	A. J. Boyd	4	1	1	32
66	The Malloch	Seaforth	Friday before f. m.	R. S. Hays	R. C. Cheswright	4	1	1	42
67	Enterprise	Harriston	First Monday	John Livingstone	J. H. McCully	3	1	1	31
68	Maitland	North Augusta	Friday after f. m.	J. Chapman	F. P. Warne	21	1	1	49
69	Grimsbv	Grimsbv	First Wednesday	W. E. Millward	Thos. Hobbie, M. D.	3	1	1	48
70	Grand River	Bracebridge	Third Thursday	Chas. G. Mills	H. J. Meiklejohn, M. D.	2	1	1	33
71	Prince of Wales	Amherstburg	Monday after f. m.	H. A. Hackett	S. S. Willison	3	1	1	44
72	Keystone	Stirling	Wednesday before f. m.	G. Bedford	R. Coates	22	1	1	22
73	Erie	Ridgetown	Monday after f. m.	John Murray	George Hyatt	3	1	1	47
74	St. Clair	Milton	Second Tuesday	Conrad Hoff	W. J. Guy	9	1	1	71
75	Mount Nebo	Niagara Falls S	Friday on or after f. m.	William Baker	L. N. Phippe	7	1	1	40
76	Occident	Toronto	Second Friday	Geo. R. Clemens	R. J. Beeman	6	1	1	78
77	Minnewawa	Parkhill	Friday on or after f. m.	Geo. Sutherland	A. E. Edgar	9	1	1	90
78	Orient	Toronto	Fourth Thursday	E. H. Briggs	J. E. Richards	3	1	1	57
79	Ark	Windsor	Second Monday	E. C. Russell	D. McPherson	7	1	1	58
80	Aylmer	Aylmer	Friday on or after f. m.	G. F. Clarke	J. A. Morton	3	1	1	32
81	Shuniah	Port Arthur	Third Friday	J. W. Morgan	W. H. Sing	2	1	1	48
82	Ionic	Orangeville	Tuesday after f. m.	James H. Sutherland	James H. McVean	5	2	4	87
83	Lebanon	Wingham	Third Tuesday	Joseph Galley	Geo. W. Verral	2	1	4	43
84	Macpherson	Meaford	Thursday after f. m.	F. D. Kent	G. S. Patrick	2	1	3	34
86	MacNabb	Dresden	First Thursday	W. H. Switzer	Robt. Brooke	38	2	2	149
88	Golden	Rat Portage	Second Wednesday	W. J. A. Lake	Robt. Meade	5	1	4	52
90	Midland	Toronto	Third Monday	A. Gillespie	J. D. Baine	10	1	4	31
91	Tuscan	Sudbury	Thursday after f. m.	C. R. Reid	T. H. Elliot	4	1	4	41
92	Vancouver	Brockville	Second Wednesday	H. K. Brown	A. C. Rorabeck	4	1	1	40
93	St. Lawrence	Vincennes	First Thursday	Wm. H. Mowat	A. Hillmer	4	1	1	39
94	Corinthian	Boisevain	Wednesday after f. m.	R. G. Willis	Geo. McDonald, M. D.	10	1	1	72
95	Algonquin	Sault Ste. Marie	Second Friday	R. Roberts	E. N. Brown	10	1	1	65
96	St. John's	North Bay	First Friday	Thomas Darling					
97	White Oak	Oakville	Second Tuesday af. f. m.	W. O. Joyce					
98	*Signet	Winnipeg							
99	Alberta	Calgary	First Tuesday						

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31ST DECEMBER, 1899.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Regular Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admissions.	Joinings.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
110	Warkworth	Warkworth	Wednesday after f. m.	A. M. Hamilton	H. E. Ewing	3	3		1			37	2	
111	Zeredatha	Morden, Man.	First Wednesday.	P. H. Rutherford	H. Meikle							26		
112	St. John's	Morrisburg	Tuesday on or af. f. m.	G. H. Kennedy	W. K. Farlinger							32		
113	Covenant	Cornwall	Wednesday after f. m.	E. H. Elridge	F. Bisset	8	1			7		56	2	
114	Bonnechere.	Renfrew	Third Monday	W. A. Mackay	A. S. Wade.	4						45	4	
115	Brant	Paris	Tuesday after f. m.	A. N. Parney	S. V. Taylor							30		
116	Maple	Carleton Place	First Tuesday	D. H. McIntosh	F. Donald	1	1			2	1	34		1
117	Berlin	Berlin	Third Friday	L. McBrine	W. R. Birley	7				1		33	6	
118	North Star	Edmonton	Second Tuesday	H. C. Taylor	Wm. Short	6	1					26	7	
119	King Cyrus	Leamington	First Tuesday af. f. m.	W. C. Coulson	J. S. Greenhill	6					1	35	5	
120	Kootenay	Kaslo.	Second Tuesday	R. F. Green.	A. W. Goodenough	8	1					38	9	
121	Wascana	Regina	Second Thursday	J. M. Young	R. B. Ferguson	3						42	3	
122	Rossland	Rossland	First Tuesday	G. A. Mitchell	K. Lackey	10			1			32	9	
U.D.	Nelson	Nelson	Third Wednesday	George Johnstone			21					21		
U.D.	Westminster	New Westminster.	Fourth Thursday	Thos. J. Armstrong.			11					11	11	
						519	59	17	101	103	64	5870	392	75

*A amalgamated with Prince Rupert Chapter No. 52.

RECAPITULATION.

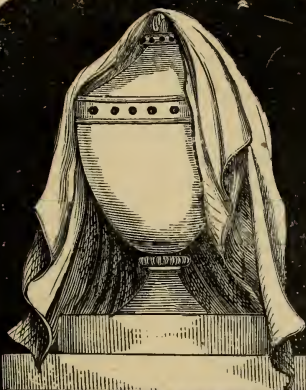
No. of Chapters on Roll.....	96
Chapters Represented.....	60
Registrations.....	519
Joinings.....	59
Restorations.....	17
Withdrawals.....	101
Suspensions.....	103
Deaths.....	64
Total number on the Roll.....	5870

SUSPENSIONS.

- No. 3. S. Armitage, W. J. Cox, W. Gall, Sam. Jenkins, J. J. Lynch, C. J. Miles, J. D. Peace, W. W. Rogers, F. M. Bell-Smith, J. A. Sauter.
- No. 4. Percy Hill, W. P. Butcher, Chas. Dunn, John McMurren, E. J. Walsh, W. A. Bell.
- No. 5. A. T. Hobbs, M. Haystead, John Bennett.
- No. 7. R. J. Orr, J. A. Flemming, Geo. Cornish.
- No. 8. H. B. Andrews, Harry Ellis, A. G. McKenney, John Woodburn, Mark E. Hill, C. R. Notman, W. H. Robinson.
- No. 15. James Gowans, Edward Bassett, A. H. Patterson, W. J. Gurd, S. F. Pierce.
- No. 16. J. O. Wallis, A. Hudson, A. Mortimer.
- No. 24. A. A. Marshall, Jas. Greer, T. A. Brown, Alex. Ballantyne.
- No. 36. Henry Pigeon, P. J. McCargar, Geo. Young.
- No. 41. Isaac R. Walker, John Podmore, Andrew D. Hoagg, James Vance, John H. Hegler, Herbert G. Wood.
- No. 44. D. H. Preston, D. G. Burger, H. T. Flynn, W. Petrie, Thos. Watts, A. S. Hart, W. J. Gurren, C. J. Becker, H. Ming, H. A. Youmans, F. M. L. Radford.
- No. 52. W. H. Bruce, E. Doidge, W. Hunter, Jas. Haddock, J. W. Montague, F. D. Peters, W. P. Riddell, H. L. Watts.
- No. 53. J. O. Van Sickle.
- No. 68. William Pear.
- No. 79. Percy Hill, J. C. Nancollas, M. P. McMaster, Thos. Humphreys, David Fisher, R. E. Bailey, Geo. R. Moore.
- No. 81. Geo. E. Smith, Frank H. McLean, A. W. Laur.
- No. 91. Chas. E. Proctor, R. Muirhead, Alex. Storer, T. W. Luttrell.
- No. 101. W. T. Woodean, R. Kellett, J. H. Gage, F. Stebbings.
- No. 102. T. J. Foster, F. Plummer, W. R. Hughes, G. Moore.
- No. 113. J. Salmons, F. Warren, C. Summers, J. W. Wilds, J. C. Pitts, J. W. Silmsier, M. W. Ridley.
- No. 116. W. A. B. Knox, John L. Webster.
- No. 117. A. B. Passmore.

RESTORATIONS.

- No. 2. Robt. Renton, George Smythe.
No. 3 Joseph Hook, John Clifton.
No. 47. John S. C. Barrow.
No. 50. W. P. Kerr.
No. 54. Chas. W. Glasgow.
No. 65. H. V. Knight.
No. 71. Fred. John Maloney.
No. 72. B. O. Lott, Arthur E. Bailey.
No. 79. Gilbert Gilmour.
No. 80. Chas. R. Richards.
No. 91. Geo. T. Pendrith, Geo. L. Lennox.
No. 100. V. H. Moore, Jas. Reynolds.



∴ ∴ Our ∴ ∴

— Departed —

Companions

IN MEMORIAM

Deaths.

No. of Chap.	NAME.	DEATHS.
1	F. W. Rowlands	January 13th
1	W. Waddington	May 28th
1	Jos. Fortescue.....	June 15th
2	John Watt.....	September 17th.....
3	J. H. Wilson, sr.....	January 18th.....
3	H. J. White.....	April 2nd.....
4	J. T. Jones.....	April 10th.....
5	C. W. Davis.....	June 21st
5	O. G. Callamore	September 26th.....
5	W. McKellar.....	September 11th
5	Jas. A. Kennedy	November 25th.....
6	Jas. Steadman.....	January 7th.....
6	M. W. Attwood.....	February 6th.....
6	R. Chisholm	July 12th
7	W. L. Hamilton	April 18th.....
7	Henry Hudson.....	February 15th.....
7	James R. Gerow.....	May 31st.....
8	Thomas Hall.....	April 21st
8	James Bennett.....	May 31st
8	Vincent Clements	October 16th.....
8	John Fletcher	December 1st.....
15	William Splan.....	December 10th
19	William Winslow	May 15th.....
22	Matthew Dansley.....	May 19th.....
24	James McFadden	August 4th.....
29	Louis A. Congdon.....	February 25th.....
30	W. A. Rhynas.....	October 28th.....
31	Mark R. Burlingham.....	January 24th.....
34	John Joseph Buckley.....	August 18th
35	Geo. H. Dartnell.....	February 2nd
40	John Inglis.....	April 2nd
45	William Errington.....	May 13th
47	John E. Brooke.....	October 4th
53	Charles R. Simpson.....	July 24th.....
53	John W. Crashie.....	August 2nd
53	L. P. Grady.....	October 7th.....
54	John Currie.....	March 31st.....
54	N. S. McCall.....	August 30th.....
55	Daniel Servos.....	May 23rd.....
55	Robert Rogers.....	October 17th
56	Wm. Reginald Armstrong..	April 10th.....

Deaths.

No. of Chap.	NAME.	DEATHS.
57	Edwin Smith.....	November 4th
60	D. H. B. Phillips	January 30th
60	Louis Alger	December 16th
61	Wm. G. Neilson	January 6th
61	John McNab Munro.....	May 9th
61	David Breckinridge.....	October 2nd
63	C. R. Barker	March 22nd
65	D. H. B. Phillips	January 30th
70	A. W. H. Chowne	April 20th
71	Charles W. Thomas.....	July 30th
73	James McMaster.....	February 6th
77	W. M. Murdock	August 18th
80	Joseph Park.....	June 1st
81	Charles McDonald	March 1st
98	Charles Clark	January 15th
98	Win. S. Stewart	July 7th
98	James M. Buxton.....	August 27th
100	W. C. Wright	April 6th
100	James Reynolds.....	September 26th
101	Edward West	March 22nd
103	Wm. Oscar Washburn....	December 19th
116	D. Breckenridge.....	September 26th
119	W. W. Halliday.....	January 27th



R. Ex. Companion

Wm. Waddington

P. G. SUPT.

Died 28th May, 1899

KINGSTON

R. Ex. Companion

Louis A. Congdon

P. G. SUPT.

Died February 25th, 1899

DUNNVILLE

R. Ex. Companion

Geo. H. Dartnell

P. G. SUPT.

Died February 2nd, 1899

WHITBY

R. Ex. Companion

Jno. McNab Munro

GRAND SUPT.

Died May 9th, 1899

ALMONTE

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER.

THE GRAND Z.

M. E. Comp. W. G. Reid.....Hamilton

THE GRAND H.

R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, M. PBeamsville

THE GRAND J.

R. E. Comp. A. Shaw.....Kingston

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	J. G. Crosby, Highgate,	St Clair	Dist. No.	1
" "	J. D. Balfour, M.D., London,	London	" "	2
" "	J. H. Spence, Brantford,	Wilson	" "	3
" "	W. Savage, M.D., Guelph,	Wellington	" "	4
" "	W. F. Miller, Hamilton,	Hamilton	" "	5
" "	Chris. McLellan, Stratford,	Huron	" "	6
" "	Geo. Hyatt, Niagara Falls S.,	Niagara	" "	7
" "	J. Wesley Jones, Toronto,	Toronto	" "	8
" "	J. T. Lovell, North Bay,	Georgian	" "	9
" "	W. G. Coulter, Port Hope,	Ontario	" "	10
" "	J. Earl Halliwell, Stirling,	Pr. Edward	" "	11
" "	Jonathan Greene, Brockville,	S. Lawrence	" "	12
" "	Nelson W. Cleary, Renfrew,	Ottawa	" "	13
" "	R. H. Arthur, M.D., Sudbury,	Algoma	" "	14
" "	Alan M. Stewart, Morden,	Manitoba	" "	15
" "	E. E. Chipman, Kaslo,	British Columbia	" "	16
" "	A. W. R. Markley, Calgary,	Alberta	Dist. "	17

GRAND SCRIBE E.

R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett.....Toronto

GRAND SCRIBE N.

R. E. Comp. Alex. Findlay.....London

GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

R. E. Comp. J. J. Thompson.....Toronto

GRAND TREASURER.

R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray.....Hamilton

GRAND REGISTRAR.

R. E. Comp. W. J. McAllister.....Hamilton

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

V. E. Comp.	J. E. Sanagan, Stratford,	Grand Senior Sojourner.
" "	Spencer Love, Toronto,	" Junior Sojourner.
R. E. "	J. B. Nixon, Toronto,	" Lecturer.
V. E. "	James Evans, Port Hope,	" Sword Bearer.
" "	W. J. Carson, London,	" Master 1st Veil.
" "	A. J. Meiklejohn, M.D., Stirling,	" " 2nd Veil.
" "	A. L. Hughes, Brantford,	" " 3rd Veil.
" "	R. Mahony, jr., Guelph,	" " 4th Veil.
" "	James Craig, Renfrew,	" Standard Bearer.
" "	W. H. Robinson, Oakville,	" Dir. of Ceremonies.
" "	N. J. Fraed, Cornwall,	" Organist.
" "	W. H. Switzer, Dresden,	" Pursuivant.
" "	W. A. Ducker, Winnipeg,	" Steward.
" "	R. H. Knight, Sault Ste. Marie,	" "
" "	G. A. Mitchell, Rossland,	" "
" "	D. C. Robertson, Edmonton,	" "

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

R. E. Comp. Wm. Gibson, M.P., Beamsville, President.

BY VIRTUE OF OFFICE.

M. E. Comp.	J. E. Harding.....	Lindsay
" "	Donald Ross.....	Pictou
" "	Robert Hendry, Jr.	Kingston
" "	R. B. Hungerford.....	London
" "	J. J. Mason.....	Hamilton
" "	Henry Robertson.....	Collingwood
" "	Kivas Tully.....	Toronto
" "	J. Ross Robertson.....	Toronto
" "	M. Walsh.....	Ingersoll
" "	A. Shaw.....	Kingston

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	J. G. Crosby, Highgate,	St. Clair	Dist. No.	1
" "	J. D. Balfour, M.D., London,	London	" "	2
" "	J. H. Spence, Brantford,	Wilson	" "	3
" "	W. Savage, M.D., Guelph,	Wellington	" "	4
" "	W. F. Miller, Hamilton,	Hamilton	" "	5
" "	Chris. McLellan, Stratford,	Huron	" "	6
" "	Geo. Hyatt, Niagara Falls S.,	Niagara	" "	7
" "	J. Wesley Jones, Toronto,	Toronto	" "	8
" "	J. T. Lovell, North Bay,	Georgian	" "	9
" "	W. G. Coulter, Port Hope,	Ontario	" "	10
" "	J. Earl Halliwell, Stirling,	Pr. Edward	" "	11
" "	Jonathan Greene, Brockville,	S. Lawrence	" "	12
" "	Nelson W. Cleary, Renfrew,	Ottawa	" "	13
" "	R. H. Arthur, M.D., Sudbury,	Algoma	" "	14
" "	Alan M. Stewart, Morden,	Manitoba	" "	15
" "	E. E. Chipman, Kaslo,	British Columbia	" "	16
" "	A. W. R. Markley, Calgary,	Alberta	Dist. "	17

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

R. E. Comp.	Geo. J. Bennett, Toronto.....	Grand Scribe E.
" "	Alex. Findlay, London.....	Grand Scribe N.

ELECTED BY GRAND CHAPTER.

R. E. Comp.	W. Roaf.....	Toronto
" "	D. H. Martyn, M.D.....	Kincardine
" "	D. F. MacWatt.....	Sarnia
" "	W. Birrell.....	Hamilton
" "	W. Kennedy, M.D.....	Vittoria

APPOINTED BY GRAND Z.

R. E. Comp.	W. T. Toner.....	Collingwood
" "	W. B. McArthur.....	Ottawa
" "	Robt. Scott.....	Petrolea
" "	R. G. W. Connolly.....	Dunnville
V. "	Chas. F. Mansell.....	Toronto

SUB-COMMITTEES.

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

R. E. Comps. A. Shaw, Chairman ; W. G. Coulter, J. G. Crosby, Chris. McLellan, Alan M. Stewart, R. H. Arthur, J. T. Lovell, V. E. Comp. C. F. Mansell.

BENEVOLENCE.

M. E. Comps J. E. Harding, Chairman ; R. B. Hungerford, R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

R. E. Comps. D. F. MacWatt, Chairman ; D. H. Martyn, Earl Halliwell, J. H. Spence, W. F. J. Miller, Jonathan Greene, N. W. Cleary, E. E. Chipman, R. G. W. Conolly.

GRAND Z'S ADDRESS.

M. E. Comps. J. J. Mason, Chairman ; J. Ross Robertson, J. E. Harding, R. Hendry, Jr., R. B. Hungerford, Kivas Tully, Donald Ross, H. Robertson, M. Walsh.

WARRANTS.

R. E. Comps. W. Birrell, Chairman ; J. W. Jones, A. W. R. Markley, Geo. Hyatt, W. Kenneey, W. Savage.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

R. E. Comps. W. Roaf, Chairman ; J. D. Balfour, W. B. McArthur, Robt. Scott, Alex. Findlay.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett.

LIST OF CHAPTERS—BY DISTRICTS.

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT, NO. 1.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. G. Crosby, Highgate.

No. 47, Wellington.....Chatham	No 80, Ark..... Windsor
“ 71, Pr. of Wales. Amherstb'g	“ 88, Macnabb..... Dresden
“ 73, Erie.....Ridgetown	“ 119, King Cyrus..Leamington

LONDON DISTRICT, NO. 2.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. D. Balfour, M.D., London.

No. 3, St. John's.....London	No. 54, Palestine....St. Thomas
“ 5, St. George's.....London	“ 87, Minnewawa... ..Parkhill
“ 15, Wawanosh. ....Sarnia	“ 81, Aylmer Aylmer
“ 53, Bruce..... ..Petrolea	

WILSON DISTRICT, NO. 3.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. H. Spence, Brantford.

No. 18, Oxford.....Woodstock	No. 41, Harris. Ingersoll
“ 20, Mount Horeb..Brantford	“ 115, Brant..... ..Paris
“ 23, Ezra..... ..Simcoe	

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, NO. 4.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. W. Savage, M.D., Guelph.

No. 32, Waterloo.....Galt	No. 67, Enterprise....Harriston
“ 38, Seymour.....Shelburne	“ 83, Ionic..... ..Orangeville
“ 40, Guelph..... ..Guelph	“ 117, Berlin..... ..Berlin

HAMILTON DISTRICT, NO. 5.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. W. F. Miller, Hamilton.

No. 2, The Hiram.... Hamilton	No. 75, St. Clair.....Milton
“ 6, St. John's.....Hamilton	“ 104, White Oak..... Oakville

HURON DISTRICT, NO. 6.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. C. McLellan, Stratford.

No. 24, Tecumseh.....Stratford	No. 63, Havelock.... Kincardine
“ 30, HuronGoderich	“ 66, The Malloch...Seaforth
“ 46, St. James.....St. Marys	“ 84, Lebanon Wingham
“ 50, Saugeen..... Mitchell	

NIAGARA DISTRICT, NO. 7.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Geo. Hyatt, Niagara Falls S.

No. 19, Mt. Moriah....St. Cath's	No. 64, Willson .....Welland
“ 29, McCallum.....Dunnville	“ 69, Grimsby.....Grimsby
“ 55, Niagara.....Niagara	“ 76, Mt. Nebo, Niagara Fs. S.
“ 57, King Hiram, Pt. Colborne	

TORONTO DISTRICT, NO. 8.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. Wesley Jones, Toronto.

No. 4, S. And & S. John, Toronto	No. 65, St. Paul's..... Toronto
" 8, King Solomon's.. Toronto	" 77, Occident "
" 60, Doric. Newmarket	" 79, Orient "
" 62, York Eglinton	" 91, Antiquity..... "

GEORGIAN DISTRICT, NO. 9.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. T. Lovell, North Bay.

No. 27, Manitou.... Collingwood	No. 70, Grand River. Bracebridge
" 34, Signet..... Barrie	" 86, Macpherson.... Meaford
" 56, Georgian.... Owen Sound	" 103, St. John's.. North Bay

ONTARIO DISTRICT, NO. 10.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. W. G. Coulter, Port Hope.

No. 28, Pentalpha..... Oshawa	No. 45, Excelsior..... Colborne
" 35, Keystone.. Whitby	" 48, St. John's..... Cobourg
" 36, Corinthian.... Peterboro'	" 94, Midland Lindsay
" 37, Victoria..... Port Hope	" 110, Warkworth.. Warkworth

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT, NO. 11.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. Earl Halliwell, Stirling.

No. 7, Moira Belleville	No. 44, Mount Sinai.... Napanee
" 26, St. Mark's..... Trenton	" 72, Keystone.. Stirling
" 31, Prince Edward... Picton	

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, NO. 12.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Jonathan Greene, Brockville.

No. 1, Anct. Frontenac and Catarqui Kingston	No. 68, Maitland.... N. Augusta
" 22, Grenville..... Prescott	" 100, St. Lawrence.. Brockville
" 59, Sussex..... .. Brockville	" 112, St. John's.... Morrisburg
	" 113, Covenant..... Cornwall

OTTAWA DISTRICT, NO. 13.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. N. W. Cleary, Renfrew.

No. 16, Carleton..... Ottawa	No. 114, Bonnechere.... Renfrew
" 58, Pembroke..... Mattawa	" 116, Maple... Carleton Place
" 61, Granite..... Almonte	

ALGOMA DISTRICT, NO. 14.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. R. H. Arthur, M.D., Sudbury.

No. 82, Shuniah.... Port Arthur	No. 102, Algonquin.... Sault Ste.
" 90, Golden..... Rat Portage	Marie.
" 95, Tuscan..... Sudbury	

MANITOBA DISTRICT, NO. 15.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Alan M. Stewart, Morden.

No. 52, Pr. Rupert . . . Winnipeg	No. 111, Zeredatha . . . Morden
" 101, Corinthian . . . Boissevain	

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT, NO. 16.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. E. E. Chipman, Kaslo.

No. 98, Vancouver . . . Vancouver	No. 122, Rossland . . . Rossland
" 120, Kootenay . . . Kaslo	U. D. Nelson . . . Nelson
	" " Westminster . . . New Westminster.

ALBERTA DISTRICT, NO. 17.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. A. W. R. Markley, Calgary.

No. 156, Alberta . . . Calgary	No. 121, Wascana . . . Regina
" 118, North Star . . . Edmonton	

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES AND GRAND SECRETARIES.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.			GRAND SECRETARIES.			
At Grand Chapter of Canada.			From Grand Chapter of Canada.			
Jurisdiction.			Name.			
Address.			Address.			
R. E.	Comp.	W. B. McArthur.....	Ottawa	E. Comp.	Jos. H. Johnson.....	Talladega
"	"	C. A. Humber.....	Goderich	R. E.	John M. Ormsby.....	Tuscan
"	"	John McLaren.....	Orangeville	E.	S. A. Pernot.....	Van Buren
"	"	Samuel Wesley.....	Barrie	M. E.	N. W. Spaulding.....	Oakland
"	"	A. McGinnis.....	Belleville	E.	Law'nce N. Greenleaf.....	Denver
"	"	A. Shaw.....	Kingston	E.	W. R. Higby.....	Bridgeport
"	"	T. C. Macnabb.....	Chatham	E.	George F. Young.....	Wilmington
"	"	Hugh Murray.....	Hamilton	M. E.	P. McCoy, M. D.....	Washington
"	"	A. B. Munson.....	London	"	Robert J. Perry.....	Key West
"	"	A. B. Hunsgerford.....	London	"	W. A. Graham.....	Fort Gaines
"	"	Wm. Forbes.....	Grimsby	"	C. H. Patton.....	Mt. Vernon
M. E.	"	George Waugh.....	Stratford	"	Thos. R. Marshall.....	Colb'a City
R. E.	"	D. H. Martyn.....	Kincardine	"	John Rennie.....	Lehigh
"	"	C. W. Postlethwaite.....	Toronto	"	L. J. Baker.....	Ottumwa
"	"	"	"	E.	J. H. Neilson.....	Dublin
"	"	J. M. Gibson.....	Hamilton	M. E.	Jacob De Witt.....	Salina
"	"	Wm. Walker.....	Toronto	"	H. R. French.....	Mt. Sterling
"	"	John Creasor.....	Owen Sound	R. E.	And. Hero, Jr.....	New Orleans
"	"	B. Allen.....	Toronto	R. E.	Winfield S. Hinckley.....	Lisbon
"	"	R. G. W. Conolly.....	Dunnville	"	J. M. Carter.....	Baltimore
M. E.	"	John E. Harding.....	Lindsay	R. E.	Edwin Wright.....	Boston
"	"	"	"	"	Orville G. Mil er.....	St. Paul
R. E.	"	Wm. Downie.....	Vancouver	"	P. W. Rowland.....	Coffeeville
"	"	J. A. Morton.....	Kincardine	"	Erwin Ellis.....	St. Louis
"	"	Wm. Gibson.....	Beamsville	"	W. T. Whitmarsh.....	Omaha
M. E.	"	J. Ross Robertson.....	Toronto	"	Frank Bell.....	Reno
"	"	J. J. Mason.....	Hamilton	"	R. Marshall.....	St. John, N. B.
R. E.	"	James Sutherland.....	Woodstock	"	Alphus W. Baker.....	Lebanon
"	"	John S. Dewar.....	London	"	"	"

R. E.	"	J. McLean Stevenson.. Barrie	New Jersey	R. E.	Comp.	W. H. McIlhaney.. New York	Geo. B. Edwards..... Jersey City
M. E.	"	Hy. Robertson.. Collingwood	New York	"	"	W. G. Thirkell..... New York	Christopher G. Fox..... Buffalo
R. E.	"	James Wilson..... Toronto	North Carolina	E.	"	Chas. C. Clarke..... New Berne	Horace H. Munson.. Wilmington
"	"	Wm. G. Bell..... Winnipeg	North Dakota	M. E.	"	Geo. H. Keyes..... Ellendale	F. J. Thompson..... Fargo
V E.	"	J. Moodie..... Hamilton	Nova Scotia	R. E.	"	Neil McKelvie .. Summerdale	D. H. Campbell..... Halifax
R E.	"	Hugh A. Mackay .. Berlin	Ohio	"	"	C. A. Woodwar .. CLEVELAND	Ed. in Hagenbuch..... Urbana
"	"	I. Baker..... Stratford	Oregon	R. E.	"	Donald McKay..... Portland	James F. Robinson..... Eugene
"	"	Donald McPhie..... Hamilton	Pennsylvania	"	"	Thos. R. Paton.. Philadelphia	Charles Carey..... Philadelphia
M. E.	"	D. F. MacWatt..... Barrie	Quebec	M. E.	"	Will H. Whyte..... Montreal	Will H. Whyte..... Montreal
R. E.	"	M. Walsh..... Ingersoll	Rhode Island	R. E.	"	W. R. Greene..... Providence	W. R. Greene..... Providence
"	"	J. K. Kerr .. Toronto	Scotland	"	"	The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Kin-	
"	"			"	"	tores, Carleton Club, Lond., Eng	
"	"	G. V. T. Greenhill.. Windsor	South Carolina	E.	"	John R. Bellinger .. Bamberg	Robert S. Brown..... Edinburgh
"	"	A. E. Cooper..... London	South Dakota	"	"	Robt T. Sedman, St. Lawrence	J. T. Barron..... Columbia
"	"	H. H. Watson .. Vancouver	Tennessee	"	"	Jos H. Bullock..... Paris	Geo. A. Pettigrew .. Flandreau
"	"	E. T. Malone..... Toronto	Texas	E.	"	George Lopaz..... Texas	W. A. Clendenning..... Nashville
"	"	I. B. Nixon..... Toronto	Vermont	"	"	C. W. Whitcomb.. Proctorville	Geo. Lopas, Jr..... Houston
M. E.	"	W. G. Reid..... Hamilton	Victoria	R. E.	"	J. D'Amor Drew... Melbourne	Warren J. Reynolds.. Bur ington
R. E.	"	Alex Patterson..... Toronto	Virginia	M. E.	"	Rev G H Ray..... Lynchburg	John Braim..... Melbourne
"	"		Washington	"	"		James B. Blanks .. Petersburg
"	"	David Taylor..... Ottawa	West Virginia	R. E.	"	John A. Zorn..... Wheeling	Yancey C. Blalock.. Walla Walla
"	"	Gavin Stewart..... Woodstock	Wisconsin	M. E.	"	A. J. Wallace..... Durant	Robt. C. Dunnington.. Fairmont
							John W. Lafin..... Milwaukee

CHAIRMEN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

<i>Jurisdiction.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Jurisdiction.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>
Alabama	William V. Titcomb.	Anniston	Montana	Cornelius Hedges	Helena
Arizona	Henry D. Underwood.	Tucson	Nebraska	William R. Bowen	Omaha
Arkansas	Reuben J. Laughlin	Bentonville	Nevada	Albert D. Bird	Reno
California	William A. Davis	San Francisco	New Brunswick		
Canada	Geo. J. Bennett.	Toronto	New Hampshire	Albert S. Wait.	Newport
Colorado	Ernest L. N. Foster.	Denver	New Jersey	George B. Edwards	Jersey City
Connecticut	John H. Barlow	Birmingham	New South Wales		
Delaware	Virgilius V. Harrison	Wilmington	New York	George J. Gardner	Syracuse
Dist of Columbia	William R. Singleton	Washington	North Carolina	James Southgate	Durham
England			North Dakota		
Florida	Thos. G. Hutchinson	Jacksonville	Nova Scotia		
Georgia	W. S. Ramsay	Dublin	Ohio	S. Stacker Williams	Newark
Illinois	John M. Pearson	Godfrey	Oregon	John M. Hodson	Portland
Indiana	Thomas B. Long	Terra Haute	Pennsylvania	Matthias H. Henderson	Philadelphia
Iowa	Joseph S. Murrow	Atoka	Quebec	E. T. D. Chambers	Quebec
Ireland	Thomas R. Ercanbrack	Anamosa	Rhode Island	Henry W. Rugg	Providence
Kansas	Jacob DeWitt	Salina	Scotland		
Kentucky	James W. Staton	Brooksville	South Carolina	J. T. Barron	Columbia
Louisiana	Herman C. Duncan	Alexandria	South Dakota	Louis J. Levy	Webster
Maine	Iosiah H. Drummond	Portland	Tennessee	Henry H. Ingersoll	Knoxville
Maryland	Edward T. Schultz	Baltimore	Texas	John L. Terrell	Terrell
Massachusetts	Seranus Brown	Boston	Vermont	Marsh O. Perkins	Windsor
Michigan	Jefferson S. Conover	Coldwater	Virginia	Chas. A. Nesbitt	Richmond
Minnesota	Thomas Montgomery	St. Paul	Washington	Yancey C. Blalock	Walla Walla
Mississippi	Phineas M. Savery	Tupelo	West Virginia	John W. Morris	Wheeling
Missouri	William H. Mayo	St. Louis	Wisconsin	William C. Swain	Milwaukee

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APPENDIX.

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the M. E. the Grand Z., and the Grand Chapter of
Royal Arch Masons of Canada.*

Wars and rumors of wars may distract the world profane, but within the sanctuary of the Royal Craft white winged peace reigns supreme.

Castles are sacked in war,
Chieftains are scattered far,
Truth is a fixed star.

The season of prosperity so apparent last year, and to which attention was then directed, has pleasantly continued, nor has the accompanying peaceful calm been marred by a single break that has not yielded to the healing influence of the fraternal tie.

When is considered the vast field of inspection situated between the oceans, and stretching from the arctics to the tropics, and within which is brigaded under the banners of the Royal Arch a vast army corps of Companions subject to frailty and error, it is a remarkable fact that, except in one or two unimportant instances, those whose duty it is to deal with Grievances and Appeals invariably report "nothing to do"

This naturally creates in the bosom Capitular a profound sense of satisfaction and pride. Yet not quite to all, for it must be patent to the "constant reader" of these reports that a continuance of this happy state of things must leave the Correspondent in the condition of Othello when that dusky warrior discovered himself out of a job.

It was Edmund Burke who said, "I am convinced that we have a degree of delight, and that no small one, in the real misfortunes and pains of others." Now it need scarcely be added that the Irish orator who

gave utterance to that sentiment was not a Mason and therefore we may pity him, but the touch of human nature revealed in the expression might, by drawing it mild, be applied to the Correspondent who finds he has, like the fastidious but unhappy caterer, to arrange a bill of fare without the spice that must render the feast palatable.

To atone in some measure for the gratifying monotony which characterizes the great majority of the printed Proceedings and serves to make the review thereof commonplace and tame, the reviewer has in many cases to grasp at subjects upon which the changes have been rung for years. No need to particularize. On some perhaps a new light is occasionally shed by circumstances that may excuse their resurrection, but others, worn threadbare and beyond the possibility of further argument, are dished up annually, though whatever shred of importance may have justified their first appearance had vanished with their birth.

Prof. Huxley was once sitting at dinner beside a lady who, in solemn tones, asked him whether he did not think it a very terrible thing that Rev. Mr. Jones, the vicar, should have adopted the eastward position in administering the sacrament. "My dear lady," he replied, "I am told by Sir John Herschel that to drop a pea at the end of every mile of a voyage on a limitless ocean to the distance of the nearest fixed star would require a fleet of 10,000 ships, each of 600 tons burden, all starting with a full cargo of peas. Now do you really suppose that the Maker of the fixed stars considers this new position of Mr. Jones a serious thing?"

The accompanying review, such as it is, will, we trust, be found worthy of perusal. Our Companions of the Guild across the border, whose reception of our efforts has been uniformly kind, have generally a good word to say of their northern neighbors. Their views on vital matters connected with the Royal Craft are invariably sound and in harmony with the spirit which ought to, and, we are glad to say does, pervade the fraternity throughout. We have culled from their wisdom to the extent of our space, and hope that the reading thereof may not be disappointing.

Alabama.

Chapters . . 33

Members . . 880

When on the 5th December, 1898, Grand Chapter Assembled in the Masonic Temple, Montgomery, there was at least one vacant chair to which many a glance was directed and for which many a regretful sigh was heard, regrets that were echoed throughout a Masonic continent where the name of Palmer Job Pillans was a synonym for everything that was good and noble.

A quarter of a century ago he ruled the Ancient Craft in Alabama, and of him it has been said, "No Grand Master ever better upheld the dignity of the office, nor was more jealous of any infringement of its prerogatives." For over thirty years he was Grand Chapter's Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and in this capacity was universally known to reading Masons as a thoughtful student, a wise counsellor, and a consistent Craftsman. He was justly regarded as the doyen of the Guild. He was in his 83rd year when, on the 22nd June previously, he was called to his reward. The loss is a heavy one for Alabama, it is likewise to the Royal Craft at large.

"None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise."

Grand High Priest Jernigan included in a brief address a touching tribute to his memory and also alluded in terms of sincere regret to the deaths of Past Grand Master Henry Clay Tompkins, former Attorney General of Alabama, and Deputy Grand High Priest W. J. Rhodes whose summons came on the 26th August.

The members of the Chapter at Decatur were divided on the question of its removal to New Decatur. Grand Chapter had before it two appeals in connection therewith and sustained that favoring the removal.

Grand Chapter agreed to an amendment to the Constitution fixing the minimum fee at thirty dollars and providing

"That all regularly ordained Ministers of the Gospel who are actively engaged in the exercise of their ministerial functions, and in good standing in their respective lodges, may be entitled, upon application and election thereto, to receive said Degrees gratuitously."

When Canada reduced the minimum fee, mainly, with a view to aiding country chapters in sparsely-settled districts, there was not a little adverse comment from those who regarded the cheapening of the degrees as a menace to the value and stability of Capitular Masonry. That their view of the situation was sound is borne out in the existing general desire for a restoration to the old state of things, not that any material harm has resulted from the experiment but that the Companions have come to realize that the dignity of the institution was hurt by maintaining upon its statutes a law embracing a privilege that very few of the subordinate bodies took advantage of. But hasty and thoughtless as Canada's action was at that time, and the acknowledgment is freely made, the "ground floor" legislation of Alabama in favor of a certain section of the community is to our thinking fraught with much greater risk, for it is a distinct violation of the great principle of equality which is one of the basic features of our fraternity. We are compelled thus to regard the above amendment as an ugly blot upon the beautiful symbolism of the level which it is hoped Alabama will reconsider and utterly erase.

By resolution the Secretaries of Subordinate Chapters were directed to file in the office of the Grand Secretary a copy of their "Book of Marks."

The N. P. D. affliction is doing its work in Alabama as elsewhere. From 28 Chapters submitting returns and showing a total present membership of 880, there are no less than 85 removed for this cause alone, and the number is augmented by 40 withdrawals, deaths and expulsions, a serious loss to say the least.

Through the lamented death of the veteran Companion Pillans, there is no report on Correspondence, but it is observed that a successor has been appointed in Comp. W. Y. Titcomb from whom we trust to hear in the future.

Edward S. Gatchell, Selma, Grand High Priest.

H. Clay Armstrong, Montgomery, Grand Secretary.

Arizona.

Chapters . . 5

Members . . 263

This Grand Chapter, of comparatively diminutive proportions, is colossal in aspiration.

The last annual Convocation was held in "the gorgeous palaces" of the cavernous recesses of the earth, adjacent to a great copper mine at Bisbee, and a brilliant description of which was furnished in the "proceedings." This year "the great globe itself" was not too vast for the dauntless Companions, whose ninth Convocation was held, as we are told, in the Masonic Hall in the town of Globe, on 16th November, 1898, Deputy Grand High Priest Monihon presiding in the absence of his Chief.

The address of Grand High Priest Ormsby, which contained little of interest, was read by one of the Companions present. He congratulated Grand Chapter, as usual, on a gain in membership and a good cash balance. He made no outside visitations and was not called upon for any decisions. Everything was harmonious.

The various Committees seem to have had little or nothing to do and they did it conscientiously. The Companions comprising the Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported "that no question of difference has arisen among our sister Grand Chapters whereby the peace and harmony of the Order have been disturbed."

Jas. C. Monihon, Phoenix, Grand High Priest.

Geo. J. Roskrue, Tucson, Grand Secretary.

Arkansas.

Chapters . . 55

Members . . 1895

Again at Little Rock Grand Chapter met in forty-ninth annual Convocation on the 17th November, 1898. M. E. Comp. Antonio B. Grace, Grand High Priest, presiding.

Like so many of his colleagues, he makes lengthened reference to the unpleasantness with Spain and like them dwells on the humanitarian aspect of its origin. The death of Past Grand High Priest Samuel Peete is

fittingly noted, as are the illustrious dead of other jurisdictions.

Three new Chapters were instituted, and three charters of moribund Chapters arrested.

Under the head of official visits the G.H.P. says: "I have to report that I contributed my share to that famous pavement which is said to be laid with good intentions." Nevertheless he was enabled to visit a number of the Chapters and took part in the work.

He pleaded strenuously for "less haste" in the advancement of candidates and recommended a six months' interval between the Master Mason degree and the submission of an application to the Chapter.

Pointing out that there are but fifty-five active Chapters existing of the 101 charters issued during the life of Grand Chapter, he replies to his own question, "Why this mortality?" by assigning three reasons: First, planting charters in districts where material is hard to acquire; second, retention of Companions in office for too long a period and suggesting that a second term should be the limit, and third, the failure of the Secretary to do his whole duty.

And in that last lies the kernel. Where there is a vigilant secretary there will you invariably find a live, active Chapter.

A decision that there must be present nine members of the Chapter in order to open and transact business, was combatted by the Committee on Law and Usage, who while admitting that it was in harmony with the rule of General Grand Chapter, held that it did not govern the subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction, and recommended "that a Chapter may open and transact business if there be present five of its members and enough visitors to complete the necessary nine; provided one of the three principal officers or a Past High Priest be present to preside." This was concurred in.

Comp. R. J. Laughlin, Arkansas' eminent statistician, furnishes as usual the report on Correspondence, and under Canada again picks up the P. M. topic and quotes us thereon, adding:

"If your young Companion comes down here, we will confer the Past Master's degree upon him "just for the fun of the thing ;" and we feel sure he will enjoy it—be impressed with the lesson it teaches, and wonder why you did not give it to him in Canada."

Just so, it was the "fun of the thing" that probably led Canada in the first place to wake up to the utter "absurdity of the thing," and decided to throw "the thing" out. We have a vivid recollection of the "impression" it inspired many years ago, but, as Comp. Laughlin infers, there may be "enjoyment" in it—for some.

Under Minnesota he quotes Companion Montgomery's "Canada, limited to Ontario," without however correcting him, a palpable oversight in a statistician and one for which there can be no excuse except we discover it in his concluding line to Comp. Perkins, of Vermont :

"And many other good things 'says he,' but we are full."

Notwithstanding which we perused every line of his admirable report and hope he will be there many, many years to give us more of them.

J. H. Kennerly, M.D., Sulphur Rock, Grand High Priest.

James A. Henry, Little Rock, Grand Secretary.

Colorado.

Chapters . . 33

Members . . 2,525

Denver again was honored with the annual Convocation the twenty-fourth, held on the 22nd September, 1898. The attendance was most gratifying.

Representatives of other Grand Chapters were duly welcomed by the Grand High Priest, and Canada's attache, Past Grand High Priest Greenleaf, "responded in appropriate terms."

The address of Grand High Priest Pierce revealed that everything was serene and happy in his jurisdiction, and in only one case was he called upon to exercise his power in an unpleasant matter. A Companion of a

Chapter had been elected to the principal office at a time when he was suspended for non-payment of dues in his blue lodge. A subsequent reinstatement did not in the eyes of the Grand High Priest justify his retention of the office, and he forthwith deposed him, placing the Chapter in charge of the second in command.

A proposed amendment to reduce the fee for the Chapter degrees from fifty dollars to twenty-five was reported adversely by the Jurisprudence Committee, and Grand Chapter concurred.

The Finance Committee reported that necessity existed for a readjustment of matters as the expenditure exceeded the income, and resolution was favored increasing the Grand Chapter dues to sixty cents, a raise of ten cents per capita.

Although the Correspondence report is unsigned it is presumed to be, as usual, from the pen of Companion Foster. There is no mistaking the style. Referring to Alabama's proposal to admit clergymen without fee, he says and justly :

" We hope it will not pass, as there is no valid reason why ministers should be a privileged class. Masonry owes nothing to ministers. They do not make the best workers, nor are they, as a rule, more appreciative of the beauties of Masonry than the members of any other class. As to their financial ability, it is generally quite equal to that of the majority of Masons."

His review of Canada is one of appreciation. Of the correspondence he says :

" Like the rest of the work done in this Jurisdiction it is thorough and enlightens the Canucks on the work of the Royal Craft in forty-four jurisdictions. He does not hesitate to plant his lance in rest against the veteran Long, on the subject of physical qualifications, and sustains himself like a knight of old."

He stoutly maintains the opinion that six months should intervene between the Master Mason and the Chapter degrees, and he is right. He failed to make it a law in his own Grand Chapter, but is no whit discouraged and keeps up the crusade.

" I am now more than ever convinced that the Masonic bodies generally are conferring too many degrees and making too few Masons.

The demon money, and the desire of numbers are the canker worms that are destroying our vitality, and until we apply the necessary remedies and destroy the insect, it will continue to sap our life blood, and the dead branches of apathy, non-affiliation and waning interest will cumber the healthy growth of our beloved institution."

Under Maine he got a little tangled up in Canadian names and credits our predecessor in this department with views that we are not altogether sure he entertains. At any rate we are quite willing to assume all responsibility on the subject quoted, which, by the way, is about the only one apparently in which we disagree.

Jethro C. Sanford, Durango, Grand High Priest.

Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver, Grand Secretary.

California.

Chapters . . 68

Members . . 5,561

With music by the choir and prayer by the Grand Chaplain the forty-fifth annual Convocation was opened in Ample Form in San Francisco's Masonic Temple on the 18th April, 1899.

Grand High Priest Eli Tucker Blackmer, whose benignant glance beams out from an excellent portrait engraving in the foreground, aptly prefaced an excellent address with a reference to "the conflict we had invited" and the stand his country had taken "upon the true Masonic platform to help the unfortunate and distressed without the hope of fee or reward." Further, "never before had a nation taken upon itself the burden of a war for humanity's sake and so vindicated the principles on which our Royal Art is founded."

It is to be sincerely hoped the Filippinos, Porto Ricans, and Cubans will see it in the same light and insure for themselves a happier future.

"Through all these difficulties, however, our Royal Craft has held her steady course—the torch of Brotherhood aflame at her prow—her scarlet banner floating from the mast, on which is emblazoned in letters of burnished gold, "Fraternity—Equality—Loyalty." A fraternity without creed; an equality with manliness, and a loyalty to truth and our country."

Surely not another "substitute word"? It commences with "L" and ends with "ty," but one is inclined to fancy the old triumphate, and it certainly might go down better with the "unfortunate and distressed" who ought to be proud to rally under the flag of the "land of the free," but who still mistakenly lay a fighting claim to independence. It is the penalty, however, that must be paid to the advance of civilization.

" God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform,
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm."

The secretary of San Francisco Chapter, No. 1, had sent out a letter in the interests of six members of that body who were "seeking political preferment" and asking the support of the Companions in their behalf. The Grand High Priest upon receiving a copy, at once instituted enquiry and learned from the officer himself that the Secretary was solely responsible. The G.H.P. instructed the High Priest of the Chapter to forth with prefer charges against the offending Companion.

"This order was promptly obeyed, a commission was appointed by *San Francisco* Chapter, before which Comp. Prince appeared and plead guilty to the charges and specifications, and, in accordance with the finding of the Commission and the decision of the Chapter, was reprimanded in the presence of a large assemblage of the members of the Chapter."

Under the head of "Decisions" is found the following interesting item which does not seem to have gone farther than the record :

"The High Priest of a Chapter presents the following statement of facts and requests a decision :—

" 'A Blue Lodge Mason who has lived in this city for several years returned to Ireland for a visit. He was gone about three months, and while there he received the Royal Arch Degree. He now presents his papers and asks recognition. I declined to grant it on the grounds that he belongs to this jurisdiction, and should have applied for the degree here. And for further reason that he has not received the degrees of Past Master and Most Excellent Master. Please let me know what I should do in the matter."

"To which I replied as follows :—

" 'You were quite right in declining to recognize the brother as a

Royal Arch Mason. Waiving the question of jurisdiction, which, however, I think is correctly stated by yourself, no Mason can be admitted to a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons unless he has received all the preceding degrees in a just and legally constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons."

The veteran Grand Secretary, R. E. Comp. Thos. H. Caswell, owing to necessary absence from the jurisdiction, tendered his resignation, and he appointed Past Grand High Priest W. T. Reynolds to the office pro tem.

According to the report of the latter, the returns to date show a net increase of 143. Two new Chapters were formed, one of them in San Francisco.

It was pleasant to note that the genial Chairman of the Correspondence Committee, Comp. W. A. Davies, was subsequently elected Grand Secretary, a position which in that jurisdiction, about equal in numbers to Canada, carries with it a salary of \$1800. He was continued, fortunately, as Correspondence Chairman, and for his labors in that capacity receives \$200 per annum.

"Take the joy that springs from labor."

His report this year includes a very encouraging notice of Canada for 1898, in which he specially praises the labors of Grand Z. Walsh, and the system of superintendence prevailing here.

F. Leslie Jones, San Francisco, Grand High Priest.

Wm. A. Davies, San Francisco, Grand Secretary.

Connecticut.

Chapters . . 39.

Members . . 5,783.

Now into its second century, this hale Grand Chapter exhibits every indication of showing the pace to many of its more youthful confreres. But one chapter of the 39, was unrepresented at the one hundred and first Annual Convocation, held at New Haven, on the 9th May, 1899, when Grand High Priest, Harry S. Abel, thus eloquently opened his brief address to the Companions:

"One year ago in the Capital City we stood upon the summit that divides the two centuries, and celebrated the centennial of Royal

Arch Masonry in Connecticut. Then we numbered the mile-posts back to the morning with us as a Grand Body of the Royal Craft. To-day in this beautiful elm city, dazed at its wonderful achievements and standing in awe at its magnificence, we find ourselves peering down the mystic avenues of the future, lighting up with the dawning of a new century and asking ourselves—"What of the night?"

As is customary in this jurisdiction, the duty of visitation was performed by the principal officers and the ground was faithfully covered.

The Grand Treasurer's report revealed the fact that the Centenary celebration cost just \$1,312.52.

On a hint from the Grand High Priest, the Companions woke up to the fact that the Grand Secretary's office was no sinecure, and tacked on a hundred dollars extra to his salary.

A resolution permitting a Chapter to strike from the roll the name of any Companion who is in arrears for dues, and who has not been heard from for the seven preceding years, notice of such action having been given at the preceding Convocation, was approved by the Jurisprudence Committee and adopted.

The Committee, however, failed to deal with a resolution providing for similar action in the case of a Companion "who is not in good standing and a member of a lodge of Master Masons," which would indicate that dependent membership does not yet find favor in the Nutmeg State.

Companion Barlow's report on Correspondence is, as it must always be, a most readable document. To Companion Foster's advocacy for an aid to memory, he says:

"Is it, in fact, any real help? Our experience is that what we learned from mouth to ear remains with us, but what we commit from books needs to be recommitted, unless used quite frequently."

He is opposed to Georgia's extreme penalty for non-payment of dues. So are we, and the more we contemplate the enactment, the farther away does it appear from Masonic principles.

"No matter what; he's poor, and that's revenge enough."

Under New Hampshire, he again refers to the subject:

"We do not favor expulsion in any case as the penalty for non-payment of dues; it is a matter that should be carefully looked up, and if the companion is unable to pay, let the dues be promptly remitted, but if a case of wilful refusal, we think the charges should be preferred, and suspension from all the rights and benefits of Masonry be the penalty."

Canada for 1898, receives a very generous and kindly notice.

Wesley U. Pearne, Middletown, Grand High Priest
James McCormick, Hartford, Grand Secretary.

Delaware.

Chapters . . 4

Members . . 668.

The four Chapters embraced in this jurisdiction, which has passed its thirty-first birthday, show a net increase of twenty-one. One of the four was unrepresented by its officers at the annual Convocation, held at Wilmington, on the 18th January, 1899, the proceedings of which are recorded in a neatly printed crimson covered volume of 121 pages, pretentious enough for an organization ten times its strength.

M. E. Lewis W. Flinn, Grand High Priest, in his address, referred to the sick Chapter, which is not inaptly named "Hope," and the charter of which he recommended should be demanded if not surrendered voluntarily.

"The setting of a great hope is like the setting of the sun.
The brightness of our life is gone."

The financial statement showed that a matter of \$14.50 had been received from this moribund Chapter, which might be accepted as a gleam of hope for the future. According to a committee report, it has failed to meet in four convocations during the year. Many Chapters have done worse than that, and lived to be shining examples. The returns show that it possesses a membership of twenty-eight, and is located in the thriving city of Georgetown.

It was decided to amend the Constitution by removing from the list of elected officers the Grand Chaplain. In view of the fact that the list already includes

a Grand High Priest and his deputy, the sacred office might by some be regarded as superfluous, but the Companions were not all of that mind, for they retained the Grand Ghaplain, but relegated him to the "appointeds," a drop in rank which will probably not hurt his dignity.

The Committees generally reported having nothing to do, yet the G. H. P. announced the appointments on no less than nine for the next Convocation.

Companion V. V. Harrison is again the Correspondent, and we much enjoyed his report. He has elastic views of his own and is fearless in expressing them. For instance, he believes that a Master Mason who has had the misfortune to lose a leg, should not be debarred from progressing in Masonry if he so desires,

"especially when, with the aid of science, he can use an artificial limb to the extent of complying with all the requirements of the degrees."

The "aid of science" is not to be procured in these matter-of-fact days without considerable outlay, and the aspiring brother who from circumstances is forced to be content with a peg-leg, must also be content to remain where he is. If, however, he can borrow the scientific arrangement, just for the occasion, and exhibit his skill in complying with the requirements for the nonce, is it to be understood that he may resume the stump and be happy evermore?

He is opposed, as are we, to the free admission of "ministers of the gospel," because of their calling, and here is how he puts it:

"From a financial standpoint, they are, as a rule, better able to pay the usual fee than a great many others who are required to do so. Of course, they are desirable acquisitions, their presence at your meetings exert a good influence, but you seldom have them with you. After the novelty wears off, they become conspicuously absent. It is rarely that you find one who becomes sufficiently interested to pass the chairs. Then why place a premium on membership of this kind?"

Under Canada he pays a compliment to the zeal of Grand Z Walsh.

"From the address of M. E., we are willing to vote him the right man in the right place. He goes at once into the business that called the Grand Chapter together without any flowery rhetoric. He found

it impossible to visit all the Chapters in the jurisdiction, and concluded to devote his time to those who most needed his help which he did, and presented a very exhaustive report of their workings."

The system of superintendence and visitation also elicit words of appreciation.

"The Grand District Superintendents presented their reports, which show them to be active, zealous Masons, attentive to the duties devolving upon them. In fact, no report has come to our table that shows its entire jurisdiction to have been so carefully looked after. The work reflect, much credit upon our Canada Companions."

And in concluding says of Canada's reporter: "In the vernacular of Hogan's Alley, he 'gets there' every time. Forty-four Grand Jurisdictions were reviewed by the Companion, and he did not forget or overlook little Delaware. In fact, he treats us to an excellent review. He takes a turn at us on the Grand Representative question, but we are of the same opinion still. We think, however, he is with us on the P. M. degree. It will be remembered that the Grand Chapter of Canada has eliminated the degree from the Royal Arch system, and we still have the bold effrontery to think this to be right."

Harry Galbraith, Wilmington, Grand High Priest.

James H. Price, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

Florida.

Chapters .. 17.

Members .. 651.

Grand High Priest Wilber P. Webster, presided over the fifty-third Annual Convocation, which, as on the previous occasion, was opened in ample form at Jacksonville. The attendance of officers was good, but that from the constituent Chapters might have been better.

Canada's representative Companion R. J. Perry, of Key West, was not among the envoys present, but the gavel used on the occasion came from that historic town, and was presented by the W. M. of a blue lodge there. It was constructed from a piece of oak taken from the destroyed battleship *Maine*.

Opening his address, the Grand High Priest fittingly refers to the loss sustained by Grand Chapter in the death of the Grand Secretary and Past Grand High Priest Companion, William McLean, "one of the brightest Masons in the State."

Dispensations issued by him number half a dozen, but they include one or two that read oddly:

"To ballot at a Special Convocation on application of a soldier who was about to leave for the seat of war."

"To ballot on application of a well-known candidate at a Special Convocation for the purpose of preparing material for exemplification of work for an official visitation."

He properly refused an application "to re-open a dark ballot on account of irregularity of same."

His visitations were numerous, and apparently had beneficial effect.

Referring to the neglect of Grand Chapter to take notice of the appeal for recognition from New South Wales, he recommended that "action be taken towards ascertaining the status of the various foreign Grand Chapters, with a view to establishing friendly relations."

The "regulation" in regard to the recording of "marks" he found was not observed, and urged making it compulsory on the M. M. M. before taking his R. A. degree. This was subsequently approved by the Jurisprudence Committee.

An invitation from the Jacksonville Board of Trade for an excursion "upon the river" was declined with thanks.

The Grand High Priest was the choice of Grand Chapter for the office of Grand Secretary.

An appropriation of fifty dollars to rent a room in the Temple for a Grand Chapter Library was agreed to.

An amendment to the Constitution, making Jacksonville the permanent meeting-place of Grand Chapter, will be decided at next Annual Convocation.

James Cornell, Ormond, Grand High Priest.

Wilber P. Webster, Jacksonville, Grand Secretary.

Georgia.

Chapters . . 108.

Members . . 3,355.

"Alas, how great has been the perfect consummation of Nature's duty; how little do the efforts of mortals compare. Just one year ago we were preparing for war for humanity's sake. To-day we have bettered our fellow man by giving an oppressed people liberty. In this we are told that the hand of Masonry was instrumental."

With this singular tribute to the ancient Craft, Grand High Priest, Henry C. Burr, prefaced an excellent address to his Companions of Georgia at the Annual Convocation held at Macon, April 26th, 1899. He said more:

"How grand a conception of a brotherhood which has maintained a solidarity for ages unimpaired. Our distinguished historians show that Masonry had passed its infancy when the Hebrew defied the Pharaohs. Egypt, Chaldea, and Troy flourished, then passed away. Sennacherib, who from the four points of the compass extorted his revenues; the wealth of Ophir, the perfumes from the dependencies of Arabia; the Mede scourged into servitude bent in humiliation before him, but he, the mighty, saw his purple chariot bands 'melt like snow in the glance of the Lord.' The Hellene founded the republic of Greece, blossomed as the rose, and withered away. Rome, first as a kingdom, then a republic, and finally the empire governing the world, collapsed by the weight of her own greatness, dwindled into nothingness, and to-day exists almost only in history. The Middle Ages persecuted and the penalty of death imposed on those suspected of Masons, but withal, with her truths and great moral principles, she has stood the test of trials, overcome the iniquities and jealous oppression of nations, and to-day, we as representatives of this Grand Body, unchanged in its principles, firm in its resolutions, steadfast in its faith, bow in humble reverence to our Guide, our Deliverer, the Great I AM. We should continue to move onward, upward, higher and higher, over difficulties and dangers, until we look down on a conquered world, within, one of evil thoughts and evil passions subdued, without, one surpassed in the race of honor and power."

The above is submitted as a sample of much similar that precedes his record of work done during the year. He instituted four new Chapters. In one of them he "exalted six teams"; in another, seven, where he "labored for nearly two days and nights."

Five Chapters U. D. were constituted, three of them by himself, in one of which he conferred the degrees upon thirteen candidates.

His visitations were numerous, his work untiring,

and his success in putting new life into dormant Chapters deserves the highest praise. Five charters were surrendered.

“In conclusion, Masonry is Masonry. The name is the synonym of a good deed, an upright life. The definition of the word is beyond etymological research. Practically and theoretically it is the same. The Mason of the Lodge room is the Mason at home; in all his dealings with his fellow-men is seen the application of his first lesson. When the journey is finished, he, peacefully waiting, awakens to the realization of his rewards for the deeds drafted on life's trestle-board, and closes his eyes in sleep. Let us then seek the ceremonial exemplification and follow it.”

A brief but sweeping resolution to the effect that “all former edicts of this Grand Chapter are hereby repealed,” was submitted to the Jurisprudence Committee, which as briefly recommended its adoption and Grand Chapter concurred.

Non-payment of dues is a grievous offence in Georgia. For this “un-masonic conduct” five Companions of one Chapter and two in another were expelled. We have before remarked on this phase of the law in this jurisdiction, and sincerely trust it is included among the edicts that have been repealed. It is certainly at variance with the beautiful sentiments expressed by the Grand High Priest and by those of his able predecessors also.

An invitation to visit the Georgia Academy for the Blind had to be declined.

A paragraph in the report of the Finance Committee is an eloquent tribute to the work of the Grand High Priest:

“You will see that the Grand Chapter started out last year with a debt of \$1,470.69, and no money to meet the business of the year. Your Grand High Priest has done such work as has put this Grand Chapter in the financial condition it is; leaving a cash balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, \$3,146.50.”

An appeal being made on behalf of the aged widow of a Companion, a sum of \$34 was collected, which Grand Chapter supplemented by a grant of \$66.

Companion Rev. W. S. Ramsay is again the cheerful reporter. He approves the Grand Z's suggestion of a federation of Canadian Grand Chapters, and adds:

“We honor him for the high tribute he pays to his Sovereign, Queen Victoria, in the sixtieth year of her reign. No words of praise can be too exalted in honor of this noble Christian Sovereign, who never fails to impress her subjects that their highest and first duty is to God, and that loyalty to her is but loyalty to Him, whose instrument she is for the good of her people.”

Of the Correspondent's labors he flatteringly remarks :

“It is one of the ablest reviews that has passed under our hands. It is thorough and full. Nothing of interest is omitted.”

We are reluctantly compelled to relinquish the interesting report of Companion Ramsay, but can truthfully say that the receipt of Georgia's “proceedings” is always gladly welcomed.

Henry C. Burr, Griffin, Grand High Priest.

W. A. Wolihin, Macon, Grand Secretary.

Illinois.

Chapters . . 188.

Members, . . 17,095.

Half a century of existence did this Grand Chapter boast when it met in Annual Convocation at Chicago on the 26th October, 1899.

M. E. Companion W. B. Grimes, Grand High Priest, congratulated the Companions on the peaceful and prosperous condition of the Royal Craft and paid fraternal tribute to the memory of the illustrious dead, two being Past Grand High Priests, James A. Hawley and Asa W. Blakesley.

He issued dispensations for new Chapters at Pontiac, Rogers Park, Chicago, and Farmington.

Under “Decisions” the following incident in one of the Chapters is unique :

“The ballot having been spread for the election of a candidate to receive the degrees, none of the black cubes belonging to the Chapter were voted, but five black cubes (four of wood and one of rubber) were found in the bottom of the box among the white balls voted by the members. And a member asserts that he knows that all the five were voted by one member and wishes to know if this is sufficient evidence on which to prefer charges of unmasonic conduct. And, also, as to what relation the brother whose petition was so black-balled stands to the Chapter.”

The Grand High Priest held that if the identity of this emphatic objector could be established he was to be proceeded against for gross unmasonic conduct, but the candidate was rejected just the same.

He directed attention to the celebration of the semi-centennial of Grand Chapter next year, and recommended a Committee to carry out the arrangements.

Illinois does not favor the use of substitutes, and the Grand High Priest advanced some cogent reasons why it should.

“In my opinion, this practice, if adopted, will at once give life to many small, weak Chapters, now almost, if not quite, dormant, and many others struggling for a bare existence. It is a well-known fact that many of these weak Chapters drag along with one or two candidates, waiting for the requisite number, until one or both die, or move away, without receiving that which was promised them when they petitioned. Now, if these Chapters were permitted to use substitutes this would not be the case. Every exaltation adds life to *any* Chapter, especially to small, weak Chapters.”

Later Grand Chapter yielded to an amendment providing that one substitute may be used.

The Committee on Ritual strongly recommended the work of the General Grand Chapter, and its report was adopted.

Companion Pearson again reviews the proceedings of other Grand Chapters. That for Canada, 1899, receives kindly and appreciative attention. Referring to the Benevolence Committee's remarks on the neglect of certain Chapters to contribute to the relief of their beneficiaries he says :

“The above only shows the difficulty of satisfactorily discharging the delicate work of *quasi* public charity. For ourselves, we have always thought the Masonic obligation was purely personal. In these latter days of consolidations and organizations, something more effective is often necessary and seems to be demanded. In some of our larger cities ‘Boards of Relief’ are formed by the voluntary action of the various bodies, but in whatever way the attempt is made the result is seldom satisfactory for any great length of time, and yet the need is and will be perpetual.”

“‘The poor ye have always with you.’ Let us remember that no power on earth can grant a dispensation freeing us from our personal obligations.”

There is nothing difficult, Companion P., in giving

to the widow and orphan, or the Companion in need, as long as you have the wherewithal to do so; but it is only reasonable to inquire from the private chapter making the application what it has done in the same direction. The absence of a "pay-roll" enables us to supplement the "personal obligation" and contribute to the happiness of those who have something of a claim upon our charity. A similar condition of affairs prevails in our Grand Lodge, which annually distributes to the widows and orphans of deceased brethren, sums varying in the aggregate, from \$8,000 to \$10,000. If it had to pay mileage and per diem to the delegates attending the meetings, such a record would be impossible.

Commenting on remarks addressed to the Michigan reviewer with reference to the abolition of the P.M. degree, he says:

"Companion B. is still obliged to defend his Grand Chapter for its rejection of the fifth degree, and in his review of Michigan we find the following in answer to Companion Conover, who had claimed that the degree was 'almost universally acknowledged as part of the Capitular system.'"

Companion J. M. Pearson is not alone in assuming that our occasional replies to others is a defence. There is nothing to defend. When we see Companions misinterpreting the action we stop to set them right, that is all.

"We were sorry when the degree was abandoned and hope to see the day when it will be reinstated."

We hope so, too. Companion Pearson will then be assured of length of days, and we add the further hope that nothing more serious will ever mar the serene enjoyment of his cloudless longevity.

Replying to Companion Harrison, of Delaware, who asked him for his authority for branding dependent membership as "a modern fad," he aptly says:

"Our authority is of two kinds, historical and etymological. During ninety-three years of Masonic teaching in this jurisdiction no such lesson has been learned, or taught. We are loyal to the old charges—all of them—and seek not, by 'pains and penalties,' to enforce what should be a matter of free will. Masons held by such a tie are of small value to the Craft, and do not deserve the name of 'free.' But not only in our own jurisdiction has this been law, but in

some of the oldest lodges in our land, and in all the early lodges of England and Scotland, Masons were made without any regard to future membership anywhere. Membership was a matter for after consideration.

"Undoubtedly this grew to be an evil, and the 'ancient charge' was approved as a wholesome corrective, but the custom of making unaffiliated Masons was older than the charge, otherwise, no such charge would have been made. In view of this we call the notion 'modern.' We call it a 'fad' because we regard it as a 'passing fancy,' a 'capricious hobby,' a 'whim'—see Standard Dictionary. The argument and illustration given seems to us inappropriate. Filial devotion enforced by statute would be a paltry affair not worthy of the name."

- Nathaniel Bowditch, Aurora, Grand High Priest.
Gilbert W. Barnard, Chicago, Grand Secretary.

Indiana.

Chapters . . 96.

Members . . 6,815.

The fifty-third Annual Convocation was held in the city of Indianapolis, on the 19th October, 1898. R. E. Companion Thos. R. Marshall, Grand King, represented Canada among the envoys present. A thoughtful and impressive address was delivered by the M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion Robert A. Woods, from which the following extracts are submitted :

"As the cardinal, comprehensive thought of Masonry—its alpha and omega—lies unreservedly in the Ineffable Name, the true cornerstone of the temple of human life, Masons owe it to themselves and their fellowmen to see that every bush is afire with God."

"As a Grand Body, our affairs were never better. The prosperity that has been our guerdon, and the harmony that has been our chief characteristic during recent years, still remain to benefit and uphold. Internal dissensions there are none. Bickering and strife have no foothold within our gates. The onward sweep of true fraternity, peace and goodwill, grows daily more strong and irresistible, and may God grant it furtherance to the utmost."

Referring to the then closing war with Spain he said :

"In the providence of God, war becomes essential at times to cleanse the leprous moral atmosphere, to overturn tyranny and relentless oppression, to bring the blessings of liberty to the downtrodden, and to provide the heritage of a nobler, purer civilization to the nations of earth. That much has been done lately in this connection we are not insensible, but the end is not yet. The struggle is on in earnest. Thank God it was left for us to take the greatest stride in this direction since the world began, for we were the first nation in

the whole history of humanity to deliberately go to war with another nation for no other cause than universal liberty."

He constituted one Chapter and issued dispensations for the organization of three new ones.

The applications for dispensations to hold special elections for the purpose of filling vacancies caused by the resignation of chapter officers elicited from him a strong denunciation of "this heinous sin of procrastination."

The frequent requests for decisions in the face of the laws made and provided is a subject likewise calling for censure, and it gets it:

"Either the Companions do not consult the law at all, or, consulting, they fain would construe with much latitude, and seek a way of escape through an erroneous decision, or else they naturally see through a glass darkly. Strive to be absolutely sure your path is dark before you, then seek for light."

On the complaint of an Indiana Chapter two Kentucky Chapters were on the carpet for invasion of jurisdiction. In one case the candidates received were, it was claimed, "itinerant ministers of the gospel and liable to change their residence at any time." In the other it was urged in defence that the charges related to a matter that occurred twelve or thirteen years ago. Both defences were insufficient for the Grand High Priest of Kentucky, who apprised him of Indiana that both Chapters were to be cited to appear before the Grand Body.

Referring to the limitation of the report on Foreign Correspondence, he penned the following pointed paragraph, every word of which we heartily endorse:

"It is my conviction that this should not have been done. A perusal of the reports as affected by that order is sufficient to show the omission of the review of the strictly foreign Grand Bodies, as well as the effort made to condense, invariably at the expense of diction, thus giving color to the suggestion that the author himself feels "like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves." His work under such circumstances cannot possibly reach its best. His reports are of priceless value, if left untrammelled. The status of sister jurisdictions come to us in no other form, and to set metes and bounds to a review that is always charming and erudite, and which never fails to entertain and instruct, is poor economy at the hands of this Grand Chapter. The

excess, whether much or little, will entail no grievous burden. I would earnestly recommend that the restriction be removed."

Grand Chapter, sad to relate, did not view the matter in the same light, and concurred in the report of the Committee on Claims :

"That with due deference to the opinion of our Grand High Priest in the matter, we do not think it advisable to make any change, and recommend that the number of pages of said report be limited to one hundred printed pages."

Recognition of the Grand Chapter of New Zealand was deferred awaiting evidence that the Grand Chapters of England, Ireland, and Scotland, which formerly held jurisdiction in the colony, had acquiesced in the formation of the new organization.

In our last review Indiana did not appear, mainly because we included two of its annual proceedings, 1896-7, in ours of 1898, and the Grand Secretary was probably hindered in his praiseworthy efforts to issue in record time as he did heretofore. Thus we missed communing with Companion Long, and the interval for that reason has not been as bright. Gladly do we greet him on this occasion, and though a cruel and unwise mandate restricts him to a certain limit, he contrives to compress within its confines a pamphlet of rare information and instruction for his Companions.

He may not be quite with us on the "feminine element," which in some respects, perhaps, is an ancient landmark, but we are with him heart and soul on many other matters. Referring to a decadence in Alabama, he seizes the opportunity to rebuke a decision within that jurisdiction.

"Well, the Grand Chapter of Alabama will more readily recover from financial ills than it will from the concurrence in a decision providing for the making of Royal Arch Masons of candidates with amputated legs. This expression may seem unkind, but upon the maintenance of ancient landmarks must depend the integrity and perpetuity of Masonry."

He is not indifferent to Canada, nay, we fancy he likes it, for he gives from his limited store no less than five pages to extracts from and comments on its proceedings.

“It is perhaps from this address of Companion Walsh that the Royal Craftsmen of the United States will first learn that the brilliant story-teller and poet, Rudyard Kipling, can be hailed as a Companion of the Royal Arch.”

Noticing the announcement of the deaths of M. E. Companion Spry and others, he pauses to deplore the lack of “appreciative memorial” for departed Companions who have devoted much valuable time to the craft during their lives. In this we entirely agree, and feel confident that his words will secure the sympathy of many of our Canadian readers.

“Where prominent Masons die in any Grand Jurisdiction—Brothers, Companions, or Sir Knights who labored early and late for the good of the Fraternity during the best years of their lives, and contributed earnest zeal and special talents and abilities to the welfare and advancement of Freemasonry—and then receive only the faint praise of a line or two of announcement and the common honor of a Memorial page which is never reached by the general reader, the writer has always been touched with a feeling of personal regret and been awakened to a new appreciation of the fact that ingratitude is a grievous sin.”

His criticism of our views on the Eastern Star organization are probably meant to be caustic and severe, but it falls short of being either, for the reason that he lacks consistency and is hardly fair to the writer in that respect. As is well known he is a doughty champion for the maintenance of the ancient landmarks in their integrity, and we honor him for his stand thereon; but when he quotes our comment on the “compliment paid by the Grand High Priest of Iowa” to the Eastern Star ladies without giving the words used by that distinguished Companion, his position as a landmark champion becomes perilous, and the desire to score a point at the expense of accuracy too apparent. The Grand High Priest in his eagerness to say something nice to the ladies, declared that their organization was “*the auxiliary of the Masonic institution, and one of its principal pillars of strength.*” As a landmark upholder we entered a facetious objection to this bold statement, an objection that Companion Long seizes to fraternally belabour us with.

If, however, he can convince us that the feminine order of the Eastern Star is "one of the principal pillars of strength of the Masonic Institution" we shall be willing to take it all back and admit our utter ignorance of ancient charges, landmarks, and history, or anything else that may occur to the gifted mind of our good Companion.

It may be added that the remarks of the Iowa Companion are also quoted in another place by Companion Long, without comment. We are surprised at this, as his quotation embraces more than did ours, for the Grand High Priest continued his address to the ladies thus :

"While you are more charitably disposed towards us in admitting us into your Order, let us hope the day is not far distant when we can reciprocate."

Companion Long gives to this extraordinary deliverance the approval of his silence. "No bondsmen, no women." Alas for the ancient charges.

But while his apparent tacit recognition of this Iowan expression of heresy must excite wonderment, he is not without advancing a sound opinion on the matter elsewhere, for to Companion Hedges, of Montana, who disagrees with him on the physical perfection question he rejoins :

"The Companion considers that if it is not recognized in England, whence all our Masonry is derived, it must not be regarded as a landmark in America ; but suppose the Masons of England should admit women, or—with infinitely less reason—atheists, or lunatics, must we concede that the law as to these is no longer operative?"

And again to Companion Bird, of Nevada :

"The antiquity of Freemasonry is its glorious crown. The integrity of its landmarks is its tower of strength. When the foundation of its ramparts is undermined its walls will crumble and fall."

Now, after that, he will not surely support the Eastern Star as one of Masonry's "principal pillars of strength."

As with the Past Master degree in previous reviews, he adhered tenaciously to the Eastern Star in this, and exhausted our report to discover any little reference we had made to that "pillar of strength." There is no

desire on our part to indulge in controversy or dispute on matters which fortunately do not affect us. The references which are quoted appear only in the course of review, and we were under the impression that in reproducing them we were entitled to a passing opinion. We are bound to admit the superior erudition of our critic, but as we remarked before, if the knowledge with which he is so abundantly stored were utilized to enlighten us on this matter, it would be accepted gratefully as the "bread" we sought, and not as the "stone" we received

"Companion B. reviews Indiana for both 1896 and 1897, but the time and space already given to the reviews of the Proceedings, proper, of Canada make it impracticable to give his paper the attention it really merits—not referring here at all to what he has written in reply to the writer's comment upon the Companion's 'courteously' conceived criticism of the writer's estimate of the Past Master's degree and its surroundings—as to which it is sufficiently satisfactory to know that the leading Masonic writers and thinkers of the United States concur."

Just so. That was bound to come.

"To observations which ourselves we make,
We grow more partial for the observer's sake."

Under Delaware, he gives us a very lucid and interesting definition of "serving brethren," which, did space permit, we would like to reproduce. In fact, the entire report is of absorbing interest. How he ever contrived to get so much within such a narrow compass it is difficult to conceive. We again sympathize with him in the mistaken decision of his Companions of Grand Chapter, and cherish the hope that they will enable him in the near future to "expand" for the benefit of all.

1899.

Canada's representative in Indiana, M. E. Companion Thos. R. Marshall, is now the Grand High Priest of that jurisdiction, and his portrait embellishes the "Proceedings," recording the fifty-fourth Annual Convocation, held at Indianapolis, on 18th and 19th October, 1899.

M. E. Companion Fisher presided, and congratulated the Royal Craft on the "bright rays of prosperity's sun."

Three Chapters were constituted. His official acts

were few. Some cases of invasion of jurisdiction by two Kentucky Chapters occasioned some extensive correspondence between the respective Grand High Priests.

North Vernon Chapter, which yielded up the ghost in 1893, was resurrected, and is now doing business at the old stand.

Again we greet the veteran Companion Long as Correspondence Chairman, a position which his attainments and experience eminently fit him for. He had Canada for 1899 under review, and although "fenced in" by an economical committee, gives to it nearly three pages. Noting the acts of the Grand Z, he pointedly refers to

"The conferring upon a Companion 'who had been installed as J. and elected as Z., some years ago,' and now desired the higher and the highest honor, the rank of H. and Z. Whether he had ever been installed as H. does not appear, but the statement seems positive that he had never been so invested with that of Z. The law in the United States is that election and installation and some service (though it be only that of occupying the chair during and at the close of such ceremony of installation) are absolute requisites to constitute and establish the rank of past officer, and that it is not in the power of a Grand High Priest (Grand Z.) in the absence of these to create such rank and honor, either by confirmation or dispensation, which were the prayer and the act in the case referred to."

All the circumstances justified the action, but why Companion Long assumed that the necessary installation into the several offices was dispensed with it is difficult to say. We can assure him that the ceremony in each case was not omitted, and that the Companion's service was eminently satisfactory.

"Companion Bennett is an Englishman *in extenso*, and consequently harbors some prejudices in favor of his country and against ours,—saying to Companion Drummond "England is the body of Masonry and the rest of the world is the tail."

Now by "the immortal shamrock," what are we going to do about it? Within the vista of our lengthy experience this is the rankest 'injustice to Ireland' that has ever——. Well, our good Companion when he threw that brick knew that it was at Long, and consequently safe range. However, we'll forgive.

"Who a friend or foe can meet
So generous as an Irishman."

But can we forgive the ohter? The author of that saying was Companion Drummond himself, who, like Companion Long, occasionally puts matters where they suit best. It was a good compatriot, Dean Swift, who said:

“Authors are to be used like lobsters—you must look for the best meat in the (tales) tails.”

Would that we could reproduce *in extenso* his able conclusion which deals with a phase of the ancient charges of which he has been a vigorous and doughty champion, and with which we are with him in every line. His opening paragraph we give:

“Though ‘the days of our age are three-score years and ten,’ and though a given individual, while nearing the goal, may yet be at a comparatively safe distance from the terminal point, it does not at all follow that he shall hold out to end the race at the scriptural limit; much less by impetus, or extraordinary vigor, to rush past ‘the wire’ a few paces further, only to demonstrate that even this is ‘but labor and sorrow.’ In no despondent mood, but in the wholly philosophical thought of this sentiment, the writer concludes his present report, with no assurance but good health that he will ever indite another.”

To which we append an Irishman’s toast:

“May you never know a sorrow,
May you never feel a fear,
And may disappointment shun you
In the coming happy year.”

Thomas R. Marshall, Columbia City, Grand High Priest.

Wm. H. Smythe, Indianapolis, Grand Secretary.

Indian Territory.

Chapters . . 25.

Members . . 922.

The volume of proceedings for 1889 bears all the outward evidences of internal progress. If there is to be a procession in this Royal Craft, the Companions of Indian Territory are determined to be within earshot of the band-waggon. Portraits of two eminent Past Grand High Priests assist to give tone to the compilation, viz., M. E. Companions Zachary Taylor Walrond, and Napoleon Bonaparte Maxey; and to complete a trio of great names, the presiding officer on this occasion, owing to

the absence of the Grand High Priest, is George Washington Spencer, the Deputy Grand High Priest.

“The King’s name is a tower of strength,
Which they upon the adverse faction want.”

The tenth Annual Convocation was held on the 13th September, 1899, at Chickasha, I. T., and notwithstanding the lack of the Grand High Priest, was opened in AMPLE FORM. The presence of his address, which was read on the occasion, was perhaps not regarded as DUE.

The document was dated St. Louis, Mo., September 8th, and announced to the Companions that M. E. Companion Phil C. Rosenbaum was held at that city by illness.

The Deputy Grand High Priest issued a dispensation for a new Chapter at Ponca City, O.T.

From the Grand Secretary’s report it is learned that the brethren of Indian Territory are, despite warning, still striving to emulate older and stronger jurisdictions in the desire to establish a Masonic Orphans’ Home. They have gone the length of appointing a Board of Trustees, and “an effort will be made to canvass all the lodges in the Territory.” Further, “there is now to the credit of the Home a fund amounting to \$1,500.”

When a couple more cyphers are added to these figures, it will then be in order to arrange for a grand stone-laying, and it is sincerely hoped that the glorious day is somewhere in the near future.

“’Tis expectation makes a blessing dear ;
Heaven were not heaven, if we knew what it were.”

The application of certain Companions for a new Chapter at Center, I. T., was referred to the incoming Grand High Priest.

A complaint against a Kansas Chapter for incroaching on territorial preserves, was also referred to the next year’s ruler.

The Grievances Committee had two cases of invasion of jurisdiction in the case of local chapters to deal with. In one the committee decided in favor of the family residence as against the candidate’s business loca-

tion. The other was a "straight line" measurement case, which involved much discussion and committee wisdom.

The case of "the little orphan boy of Past Grand High Priest Walter N. Evans" had been submitted to a committee, which reported

"that heretofore he has been kindly cared for by Mrs. Dick, a good lady residing at Tahlequah. In the event of her removing to Mexico, as contemplated, a home for the child can be secured at the Cherokee Orphan Asylum, at Salina, Indian Territory, he being a member of said tribe and eligible to the care and training of this institution, which is under humane management, and where he can be properly brought up."

Grand Secretary Murrow is again the Correspondent and a very interesting review is his. To Canada for 1899 he gives a page. Closing he declares himself on the dependent membership question that

"I believe the Lodge is the foundation of all Masonry, and membership in the Lodge is essential to the best interests of all the other degrees. The Master in the Great Light says: 'I am the vine, ye are the branches; he that abideth in me and I in him the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.' Humbly and reverently I use these words to illustrate my opinion that every Mason of every degree should retain vital union with his Lodge."

George W. Spencer, Oklahoma City, Grand High Priest.

J. S. Murrow, Atoka, Grand Secretary.

Iowa.

Chapters .. 123.

Members .. 7,607.

A net increase of 125 is reported by the jurisdiction, and at the forty-sixth Annual Convocation, held in the Armory, at Red Oak, on the 19th October, 1889, Grand High Priest Cleveland said:

"It should be with grateful hearts that we offer up our thanks to the great I AM for the manifold blessings that the nation as well as our fraternity has enjoyed during the past year."

His address throughout indicated that he was zealous in his endeavor to be worthy of the great responsibility resting upon him.

"From the earliest dawn of history man has ever been a sociable being, imbued with social tastes and habits, animated by a desire for better and higher conditions that naturally attract him towards his fellow-man in fraternal relations. Thus secret societies have existed in various forms in all ages. While we trace the birth of our Royal Craft to the building of the first temple, its genesis, in fact, dates back into the dim vista of the past, where recorded history blends into legend and allegory. Our fraternity, rich in its traditions, has survived through all the ages, adapting itself to the ever-changing conditions of society, growing in strength and numbers and extending its circle of moral influence in every direction, and will continue to flourish and fulfil its mission, if the same care is exercised in the future as in the past in the selection of the material for this spiritual temple that we are engaged in building."

Two new chapters were constituted. At the last Convocation Grand Chapter decided to relinquish control over the Cryptic degrees after March 1st, of this year.

"Having a sincere regard for these beautiful and instructive degrees, and realizing that something should be done to preserve them until such time as they could care for themselves, I have interested myself in organizing new Councils throughout this Grand Jurisdiction, and under the authority of Bradford Nicol, the General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States.

"This action has resulted in the formation and organization of eleven Councils, with several more in prospect. The State of Iowa is now in perfect touch and sympathy in every branch of Masonry with all other Grand Jurisdictions of this grand nation."

He devoted some attention to the order of High Priesthood which he commended to those eligible and gave a brief history of it from its origin.

"Companion Thomas Smith Webb, that apostle of the Craft by whose learning and genius the present system of Masonry was shaped, as chairman of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution for the above named body, submitted a report whose adoption gave birth to the official recognition of what we now know as "The Order of High Priesthood."

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"The High Priest that appreciates the dignity of the official position that his companions have called upon him to fill, upon receiving this order of the High Priesthood, will be the better qualified to officiate as the High Priest of the most high God, and walk closer with Him who hath said: 'I am that I am.'"

On a point of vital importance, and to which more attention should be directed generally, he said:

"And yet there is room for improvement in the financial condition of the constituent Chapters. If the secretaries would only

keep the dues promptly collected, as they can and should do, the list of members dropped from the roll would be far less. Inexcusable neglect on their part causes the unpaid dues to accumulate so that Companions become unable or unwilling to pay them, and in many cases all that remains for the Chapter to do is to suspend or drop from the rolls. Companions, when you find a secretary who keeps his dues collected promptly every year, you will always find a healthy and prosperous Chapter."

The Grand Secretary presented an ample report, which indicated a high state of efficiency in his department.

"Every Chapter has made full and complete returns to this office as required under the law, and I am pleased to be able to state that all reports are in the main correct, and all have paid their dues excepting one, and they, to my mind, offer a sufficient excuse."

A squabble between two chapters, over their right to material belonging to a certain blue lodge, occupied the attention of the Grievances and Appeals Committee.

One of them accepted, in spite of protest, a number of applicants from the disputed territory, and subsequently disregarded a remonstrance from the Grand High Priest, who promptly arrested the Charter.

"When said High Priest permitted his Chapter to elect and confer degrees upon brethren known to be within the jurisdiction of a sister Chapter without having obtained a waiver therefrom, and against the positive orders of the Grand High Priest, it was no longer a question of jurisdiction, but it immediately became a question as to whether or not the High Priest of a subordinate Chapter could with impunity violate the law of this Grand Chapter and ignore the constituted authority of its Grand High Priest.

"The conduct of such High Priest was such as might, if permitted to go unnoticed, cause serious injury to the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry, and was such as warranted the action of the Grand High Priest in arresting his jewel."

The Committee closed with a recommendation that the Charter of the offending Chapter be restored, upon said Chapter paying over to the other Chapter all moneys received for Chapter degrees from the seven candidates in question, and conceding to that Chapter the membership of the said seven candidates.

A Wisconsin Chapter accepted and acted upon the application of a brother over whom an Iowa Chapter claimed jurisdiction. The controversy and correspondence were largely turned upon the technical questions of

residence and citizenship. The Jurisprudence Committee out of the tangle evolved the decision that the Iowa Chapter was right, and recommended that the Grand High Priest be directed to make a demand upon the Grand High Priest of Wisconsin for the moneys paid on account of the candidate, and that the Chapter over the border relinquish all claim upon him.

At the instance of M. E. Companion Ercanbrack, the genial Chairman of Foreign Correspondence, the good folks of Red Oak were treated to "a great moral show," the installation of officers being conducted before "the ladies and friends of the Companions," and to a choice musical accompaniment. Let us hope all were duly impressed.

Companion Ercanbrack's review of the proceedings of forty-nine Grand Chapters is after his usual pleasant style. Under Canada he says :

On the 25th day of January, 1899, at Masonic Hall in the City of Stratford, assembled ninety-two first-class Canadians, hailing from thirty-seven different Chapters, and in the most dignified and British manner possible under the circumstances transacted the business of the forty-first annual conclave. Some malady must have pervaded Canada last winter, for of the twenty-five officials present, no less than sixteen served as an "as." Only seven of the seventeen "Grand Superintendents" were present, and last, though not least, some calamity may have befallen Iowa's chosen, "George J. Bennett, Ontario," for he was not one of the fourteen Grand Representatives whose presence added so much of dignity from foreign nations to the Grand Convocation. The absence of Iowa's man is still more to be deplored.

When Companion Ercanbrack learns that the chosen one relinquished that grave responsibility some few years ago it will doubtless prove a shock. A gleam of light comes to him later on :

"We have heretofore mentioned the absence of Iowa's George J. Bennett. We did that for the reason that no such name appears among the Grand Representatives. But if it happens that the George J. Bennett who is Grand Scribe E., and the writer of a capital correspondence report, is the same George J. Bennett that Iowa has commissioned, why did he not insert his name opposite the grand word 'Iowa' on the credential roll? George J. Bennett, whether from Iowa or not, does ample and pleasant justice to the Iowa Proceedings of 1898. We greatly fear that in one respect this committee is muddled, and don't know where it is at. In Iowa's official roster of Representatives we find, 'Canada, George J. Bennett.' In the address

of Grand High Priest Irvine he declares he has appointed 'Colin W. Postlethwaite, Toronto,' to that exalted position. Whom shall this committee believe, Irvine or Wingate? This committee is where Macbeth was :

“ But now I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in
To saucy doubts and fears.”

B. F. Parker, Dubuque, Grand High Priest.

Alf. Wingate, Des Moines, Grand Secretary.

Kansas.

Chapters .. 82

Members ... 5,140

M. E. Comp. C. S. Glaspell and R. E. Comp. W. H. Mayo, Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary respectively, of Missouri, were honored visitors at the thirty-fourth annual Convocation held at Leavenworth on the 13th and 14th February, 1899.

Adverting to the nation's unpleasantness with Spain, the Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. A. H. Connett, like one or more of his confreres, credits the Craft with something that is not observable to others who profess to know all about it.

“ That the spirit of our Mystic Brotherhood influenced to a large degree our people in waging this war for the liberation of a persecuted and down-trodden people, it is needless to argue.”

Regretfully he refers to the deaths of M. E. Comps. Henry Clay Cook and John Moses Price, Past Grand High Priests. Portraits of the deceased Companions are published with the Proceedings.

Among his decisions is the following :

“ It is not proper for a Chapter to accept anything in payment for degrees except money.”

That's where it differs from the truly rural editor, who is g'ad to take anything from corn to cordwood.

Owing to my professional engagements and the great number of sick calls occupying my time, I have been unable to visit the Chapters as I had wished and fully intended to do.

Nevertheless, he put in an appearance at three, one of them his own. He also spent a day at the Masonic Home.

“A haven to which the aged brother or sister, when misfortune overtakes them, may go for refuge, and where the orphan may be cared for and educated, and thereby become a useful citizen, a credit to society, and an honor to the institution of Masonry.”

Under the head of “recommendations” the following is found :

“I feel it a duty to recommend the enactment of a law making membership in a Chapter dependent upon membership in a Symbolic Lodge. As the law now stands, it frequently occurs that companions, after receiving the Capitular degrees, dimit from the lodge, which is the foundation of Masonry, leaving the burdens of sustaining the earlier body upon those faithful ones who honor the mother that bore them, or those whose circumstances or inclinations do not warrant application to the Chapter. The Grand Encampment of the United States has placed such a law upon its statutes, and surely that is an example worthy of being followed.”

In our experience, cases of Companions who sever their connection with the blue lodge are very rare. Indeed it is more often the other way. But compulsory membership, sugar coat it how you will, is hardly in consonance with ancient usage. As well might it be argued that because the Royal Arch is the natural continuation of the third degree, every Master Mason should be compelled to finish his education by making application to the Chapter. In demurring to this it would be pointed out that the bodies are distinct, each under its own government and laws, and that the Master Mason is subject only to the regulations under which he entered. In making application to the Chapter he is about to assume fresh obligations and promise fealty to another and separate government and constitution. To render the existence of his membership in the latter dependent on the continuation of his membership in the former, is assuming a power which cannot consistently rest on equity. To provide that an applicant for the Chapter degrees shall be an affiliated Master Mason is right and certainly a qualification within the province of the law

maker; but is it not stepping beyond the limit, to add that he shall be excluded from the Chapter if he ceases to continue his connection in the blue lodge?

It is doubtful if the Grand High Priest's recommendation was at all strengthened by the introduction of the Grand Encampment's action. That body is as distinct from Masonry as the Red Men, except that in its modern phase it attached itself to the Craft and made membership in the latter a qualification for admission. So also did the Shrine, the latest barnacle, and we have heard that a regulation similar to that of the Grand Encampment was enacted by the "Imperial" body. Why then is not the Shrine, which aims to be more select, held up as another glorious example?

It is quite within the possibilities for the Grand Encampment, if the "expansion" sentiment prevails, to cut away the Royal Arch qualification and open its ranks to eligible Master Masons. How would that kind of "example" be relished?

The fact is there has been too much of a tendency in these latter days to forge legal shackles for those whom the Ancient Craft intended should be free, and the intention and spirit of the old charges made to conform to modern associations and their peculiar requirements.

The Grand High Priest's recommendation was concurred in, and in the guise of a "standing regulation" dependent membership is now compulsory in Kansas.

Grand Lecturer Busser presented a very interesting report, from which it is gathered that he did his whole duty and that the Chapters benefited materially.

Greetings were sent by wire to the Grand Chapters of Louisiana and Wisconsin meeting the following day.

Recognition of Victoria and New Zealand was deferred.

Grand Secretary De Witt furnishes a capital report on Correspondence and generously gives to Canada for 1898, nearly five pages of fraternal review. He quotes us freely and concludes thus:

We have greatly enjoyed the visit with him ; we feel very proud of the fact that, for several years past, we have had the honor of representing his Grand Chapter in the Sunflower State ; and hope some time to meet those of the Maple Leaf in their home.

And the hope is most cordially echoed.

Alex. A. Sharp, Larned, Grand High Priest.

Jacob De Witt, Salina, Grand Secretary.

Kentucky.

Chapters .. 71

Members .. 3,049

On the evening of the 18th of October, 1898, this octogenarian Grand Chapter opened in annual Convocation at Louisville. The address of the Grand High Priest indicated that a season of peace and prosperity had blessed the jurisdiction, and he expressed thanks therefor.

He referred to the complaint from Indiana respecting invasion of jurisdiction by two Kentucky Chapters and the course he had taken.

With regard to the somnolent Chapters he aptly remarks that where there exists a chance of an awakening the old dues should not be allowed to stand in the way, and advises Grand Chapter to hold out some encouragement.

Two dispensations for new Chapters were reported.

The Grievances Committee reported that "the Companions of this Grand Jurisdiction are dwelling together in peace and unity."

Two hundred dollars per year for five years will be donated to the Old Masons' Home.

The Committee on "Necrology" refer feelingly to the passing away of Companion Lorenzo Dow Croninger. "A conspicuous figure at the annual Convocations for fifty years."

"Our Home" received its due tribute. "Everything pertaining to its management is working harmoniously."

A resolution to authorize the printing of 250 rituals, at an outlay of \$150, each Chapter to be supplied with nine, etc., was snuffed out by the Finance Committee.

M. E. Comp. Staton, indefatigable as ever, is of course the correspondent. He discarded the alphabetical order so as to save time.

He is opposed to the Alabama amendment admitting ordained clergymen into the Chapters without fee, as indeed he is against innovation generally, though he claims to be "exceedingly liberal" in his views. He is a strong advocate of dependent membership.

The following under Maine will be read with some interest, if not amused perplexity. We dare not comment on it. Of course elsewhere it may assume a totally different aspect, but from this distance it is really too funny.

"He agrees with us in all we have said relative to the Past Master's degree, and its early connection with the founding of the Royal Arch, but does not agree that Chapter Masons have any right to disclose the secrets of that degree to a *Virtual* Past Master. Well, we are sure that in many places in Kentucky the *Actual* could not be conferred, except by the assistance of the *Virtual* in some shape or another, although *Virtuals* are forbidden by the edict of Grand Lodge to attend a Convocation of *Actuals*, but somehow the ignorant *Actuals* find a way to get information from the *Virtuals* to enable them to confer the *Actual* on a presiding officer of a Blue Lodge."

Referring to New Brunswick's tribute to the memory of M. E. Comp. Daniel Spry, he says:

"This writer joins Companion Marshall in dropping the sympathetic tear over the grave of Companion Spry. Although we never saw him in the flesh, we are greatly indebted to him for many favors, and we loved him greatly."

He gives a very exhaustive review of Canada for 1898, and carefully scans address and committee reports and has words of commendation for all.

A word of sympathy even from a great distance, and at a long interval, may not be unwelcome. The bereavements referred to by Comp. Staton have touched us as we pass by, and we pause to express the hope

that the Great Healer will in His wisdom give comfort to the stricken heart.

W. R. Johnson, Louisville, Grand High Priest.

Henry B. Grant, Louisville, Grand Secretary.

Louisiana.

Chapters .. 20

Members .. 1067

This Most Excellent Grand Chapter assembled in annual Convocation for the fifty-second time on the 14th February, 1899, at New Orleans.

Grand High Priest Bolton pleaded his multifarious public and private duties as a reason for not visiting the Chapters, and expresses gratitude to his Deputy and the Grand Secretary who did the work for him.

"The dawn of the twentieth century is at hand, with all of its immense possibilities and increased responsibilities, and believing that as men and as Masons composing this grand jurisdiction, we realize the full measure of our duties to the present, as well as the future, and with a determination not to be slothful laborers in the vineyard, I extend to each and every Companion present a cordial and fraternal welcome."

From Grand Secretary Lambert's report it is gathered that the year was an active one. A new Chapter was instituted and the old ones were busy. A net gain of 29 is announced.

The Grand Chapter of Victoria sent a letter of condolence in connection with the death of M. E. Comp. J. Q. A. Fellowes.

Comp. Duncan reported the preparation of a "Monitor," but had not sufficient funds to print it.

The edict of non-intercourse with England, standing for thirteen years and born of the Quebec-England dispute, was brought to the front by M. E. Comp. Pinckard, who stated that the differences had long since been reconciled. A resolution to declare the edict void was submitted to the Foreign Correspondence Committee, which subsequently reported in favour and it was adopted.

Companion Duncan's Correspondence report is a *multum in parvo*. He compresses into eighteen pages much in the way of information. He opens thus :

"This report is not a magazine to hold critiques of the publications of the proceedings of other Grand Bodies, but is a report made for the benefit, the enlightenment, and, perchance, the edification of our own membership. The omission of remarks upon the proceedings of a Grand Body are not to be taken as in any way a discourtesy, but solely as implying that we have failed to find in it anything that will serve a useful purpose in republication in Louisiana."

He is with Alabama in its "cork leg" decision, and opposed to Indiana's designating the word "special" as applied to meetings as unmasonic, and giving preference to "called."

"We fail to see that there is any Masonry in either word. Indeed, we shall not hesitate to use either word at our option. As a matter of fact, we prefer "special" to "called" as more expressive of an emergency meeting."

He enjoys a friendly tilt with the sage of Maine on the powers and prerogatives of the General Grand Chapter. This is how he closes :

"Companion Drummond tells us the General Grand Chapter enacted its own constitution and can change and alter it. Granted. But its constitution was adopted after a due consideration of its *status* and of the rights of Grand Chapters. Granted again. It can abrogate the article quoted and put in its place a declaration of exclusive sovereignty. It *can* do that, but it *may* not do so without the creation of a revolution. The very act would be the overthrow of an American landmark in Masonry. We are opposed to that, and we are opposed to the education now sought to be given in certain quarters, which, perhaps, unintentionally, will prepare for the *coup d'etat*. Revolution is contrary to the genius of true Masonry. Conservatism and philosophic evolution are its great vital forces."

Canada's proceedings had not reached to be included in the very interesting report.

Geo W. Bolton, Pineville, Grand High Priest.

Richard Lambert, New Orleans, Grand Secretary.

Maine.

Chapters . . 56

Members . . 6,286

“The world moves on and we move with it.”

With these words Grand High Priest Albro E. Chase opened his address to the Companions of Maine assembled in Seventy-Fourth Annual Convocation at Portland, on the second day of May, 1899.

He notes the death of two octogenarian Companions, Past Grand High Priest Joseph Pearson Gill, who presided over Grand Chapter just thirty years ago, and Rev. W. B. Bartlett, Past Grand Chaplain.

He reported well of the condition of the Chapters but directed attention to

“The need of having a book of constitution and by-laws for the members to sign when they receive the R. A. degree.”

Should they not be amenable when they are admitted to the Mark Master Mason degree?

The officers appointed to visit the Chapters did their whole duty.

Victoria was recognized and New Zealand's claim held over.

A Scribe elect of a Chapter declined to be installed by the Companion selected to conduct that ceremony, but expressed willingness to be installed by any other Companion. The Grand High Priest being asked for a “way out of the difficulty” decided, “that a dispensation should be granted the Chapter to elect a Scribe as that office was vacant by the act of the Scribe elect.”

This was approved by the Jurisprudence Committee, the report concluding:

“No other officer elect has any power or right to interfere with the arrangements which the High Priest makes, and it follows that if an officer elect declines to be installed in accordance with those arrangements, it must be taken that he absolutely declines the office.”

All of which is eminently correct in our view.

M. E. Companion Drummond is, of course, the Correspondent, and, as usual, issues a volume of sound in-

struction with occasional touches of admonition in which the Canadian reviewer is generously remembered. To a comment of Comp. Davies of California he says :

“ We trust that as our Canadian Companions get at the correct history of the Past Master’s degree, they will restore it to the list of degrees conferred in their Chapters ; especially, as they must find that the reason why we cannot admit as visitors Canadian Companions not having this degree, is not a want of courtesy, but arises out of our obligations as Royal Arch Masons.”

A statement of fact that was never once doubted, much less questioned.

He is an admirer of the system of superintendence in Canada.

“ Of course, it is not every one that can write a model report, but certainly these reports place before the Grand Chapter what purports to be such an account of the various Chapters as would enable the Grand Chapter to understand fully the condition of the Royal Craft in that jurisdiction. Very little space is thrown away upon irrelevant matters.”

* * * * *

“ Our Companion has two *bêtes noires*—the General Grand Chapter and the Past Master’s degree . at least he seems to quote all that he can find that is said against the former, but so far as we have seen, not a word in its favor.”

And without doing violence to the truth he might have added another and thus rounded off a trio. But we greatly fear that Comp. Drummond is inclined to misinterpret us on some matters, General Grand Chapter for instance. That august body informs us triennially of its proceedings, and its history has been set forth in a big centennial volume. Comp. Drummond too gives us of his knowledge as to its constitution and powers. Personal acquaintance with the body we have not, nor are we likely to have, we may have remarked on the incongruity of General Grand Chapter legislating in some matters for Grand Chapters who claim to be *sovereign*, but if the latter are satisfied, complaint should not come from outside.

Canada’s proceedings of 1899, which he has under review, is apparently not enough for the good Companion, but he resurrects those of 1897 and 1898 in order to be

able to enjoy a real good fill of castigating or what he calls "frankness." He had remarked on the single initial before M. E. Comp. Walsh's patronymic and we had replied in terms which we innocently thought were of the facetious variety. Thetemerity was too much and we would just here offer a word of advice. Never attempt to be funny with a judge. But hear what he says:

"Our view is that, when the acts of a body are required to be recorded, the object is to preserve them in such shape as to be intelligible to, and understood by, others than those who participate in them and have the aid of their memory. The approved rule is that when a name is used, it should be recorded in such a manner as to identify the party to a reasonable extent. In olden times the names, residence and occupation of the party were given: and while that rule has been greatly relaxed, it has not gone to the extent of giving the mere abstract of the name. And we will avail ourselves of the "frankness" for which our Companion gives us credit, to express our opinion (in which almost all recording officers agree with us) that if one whose duty it is to make a record of facts for preservation, does not know any better than to abbreviate names to initials, he ought to *learn* better, even if he has to go "elsewhere" to do it."

That's just a specimen of what you may expect if you pass the limit of decorum. Just like a cold douche. Wonder if he observed the Grand Z's. name as appended to his address. If that exalted Companion desired to have it so, by what right should any other person alter it?

But even Comp. Drummond is fallible. In justice to him we reproduce the following, and in doing so, we also assist to do justice to the memory of the illustrious Thomas Smith Webb, whom some "eminent American jurists and writers" had credited with the creation of the Past Master's degree.

"It is possible that what we wrote about the Past Master's degree would be understood by some as referring to the Royal Arch degree, but we do not think that it was so understood generally: the clause was in brackets, and while the preceding sentence did refer to the Royal Arch degree, the paragraph in which that sentence was contained, related to the Past Master's degree, and the words "this degree" referred to that. At all events we did not intend to misrepresent him, and if he had quoted the whole paragraph, we do not think any of his readers would have construed it as he did.

When he refers to Thomas Smith Webb as a "ritual tinker" or as an "ingenious Bostonian," or as the "inventor" of the Past Master's

degree, he must not be surprised to be told that he is not acquainted with the facts of history, for the only other alternative is entirely inadmissible. Webb was not a Bostonian and apparently was never there but twice in his life: nor was he the "inventor" of the Past Master's degree, which had been conferred as a part of the chapter system *for years before Webb was made a mason.*"

He renews his expressions of great regret that Canada has abolished the Past Master and observes with solicitude its "splendid isolation" in this respect. Canada has not gone into the regretting business to any appreciable extent up to date. The possibility is yet there that it may. When that day comes we will record the fact with regret.

Our appreciation of Comp Drummond's labours is indicated in the appropriation of his excellent tabular statement and an expression of thanks for the same. The conclusion to his admirable report deals with a matter in which, as a Mason and a journalist, the writer has for many years been very sensitive and that is, the publication of masonic news in journals of doubtful respectability.. The Companion has sounded a note of warning which should be heeded through the length and breadth of the land:

"To prevent being misunderstood, we desire to say that our allusions to "so-called masonic periodicals" do not include the most of our masonic journals. We regard that the most of them are doing grand service for the Institution. But there has come about the same change which has happened in general journalism. While the larger part of our newspapers are conducted in the old healthy method, another part has become sensational to a degree that makes them a serious injury to the community. In like manner, there are so-called masonic periodicals which utterly disregard the laws of masonic propriety, and descend dangerously near the level of the "yellow journals" of recent days. The object is, of course, to get a large circulation, but the more readers they have, the worse it is for masonry. It is this class alone to which we have alluded."

Our congratulations are tendered to Canada's representative in Maine on his election to the chief office in the Royal Craft.

Winfield S. Hinckley, Lisbon, Grand High Priest.
Stephen Berry, Portland, Grand Secretary.

Maryland.

Chapters . . 19

Members . . 1,880.

The first year of the second century of this Grand Chapter was one of prosperous peace, an augury, let us hope, of the future. The Annual Convocation was held at Baltimore, on the 8th November, 1898, with a large attendance. Grand High Priest George Cook delivered a thoughtful address. Referring to the war with Spain he said:

“War comes with its bloody hand into the very domicile; it destroys thousands of homes where peace and comfort dwelt; death and desolation mark its track, and *in memoriam* is the evening and the morning lamentation of the bereaved. The national mind is lowered from the noble interchange of kind offices with another people, to wrath, revenge, and base pride and the measuring of brute strength against brute strength, and treasures are sunk in a sea of waste that would suffice to build thousands of institutions for the enlightenment of man.

“God has placed in our hands as Masons the means whereby such occasions might be averted. It may yet be too early for men to comprehend the true meaning of Masonry, but our Army and Navy have illustrated, to the honor of the nation, the tenets of our profession, in extending to the vanquished the hand of fellowship and kindly ministrations in their distress.”

The deaths of Grand King William T. Price and Past Grand High Priest J. F. Hinds, brought forth touching tributes to their virtues and the affectionate regard in which they were held by the Companions of Grand Chapter.

His visitations were confined to the city Chapters, the Grand Lecturer attending to those outside.

He was severe upon the neglect displayed by some of the Chapters in overlooking the necessity for “suitable proficiency in the preceding degree,” and added:

“To me it appears that an injustice is being done to such candidates, for under present conditions it is often farcical to see a candidate stumbling through a lot of work which he does not know, and I contend that we have no right to place a candidate in such an embarrassing position and compel him to waste his time in accomplishing nothing.”

The application from New Zealand for recognition was laid over pending the receipt of further information.

Companion Schultz, who had been continued Correspondent in the hope that the affliction which impaired his vision might be removed, himself says :

"The hope has not been realized, however, and this brief communication must constitute a farewell to the duty which has been so congenial and agreeable during my long term of office.

"I have had read to me the reports of most of the Grand Chapters of the different States, and the pleasure it has afforded me was only marred by my inability to comment upon them as "of yore." To do this, however, was impracticable, and I must be content to say a few parting words upon subjects in which I feel an especial interest, and with which I must deal rather from reminiscence than by way of reply."

The announcement is received with sincere regret, for the hope that Companion Schultz might again be restored to the full vigor of his sight had been echoed from every jurisdiction on the continent. His loss to the Guild where he has labored for twenty-three years will be keenly felt everywhere. We fervently add our prayer for his speedy restoration.

Among the subjects to which he refers, his introductory is of more than passing interest, and may well be perused by many who are inclined to wink at innovation. Under the head of "The Correspondent's Duty," he tritely says, and we cordially add our "hear, hear" :

"The duty of a reporter, as I understood it, was like that of a sentinel on the battlements, to sound the note of warning of the approach of an enemy. The enemies of our institution, however, were not, in my opinion, to be looked for without, but within the fraternity itself. Freemasonry has withstood the fiercest religious as well as political persecution, and in my opinion can withstand any persecution that might be brought against it by any powers from without. Its fundamental principles, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, will prevail over all opposition. But the danger I apprehend is that which may come from within, in the shape of innovations introduced in the desire to improve the fraternity, which will result in the change of its fundamental principles."

He deplores the enactment by which brethren suspended for non-payment of dues are punished by expulsion, and cites well-known Masonic writers who have declared against it :

"These brethren hold, as I do, that while the neglect or refusal to pay lodge dues by a brother able to do so, is an offense, it is not of such a character as to warrant or justify the infliction of the same

penalty that is imposed upon one guilty of the grossest Masonic offences, for the effect of a suspension from *all* the rights, privileges and benefits of the Fraternity, is precisely that of an expulsion from the same rights. We can hold no Masonic converse with either of them, nor are we bound to aid them in times of distress, more than the dictates of humanity would impel us to aid a profane; and the same process precisely is required for a restoration of their rights as is required of a candidate for admission into Masonry—that is, a petition, the reference of the same to a committee, and a unanimous ballot. It does seem to me that if we would reflect for a moment, we would hesitate to place a brother in such an awful predicament, because of his inability, or if you will, his refusal, to pay a few dollars. It must strike any one, after such a reflection, that the penalty inflicted is far in excess of the offence committed.”

His opposition to the use of cipher rituals is as uncompromising as ever.

“The cipher evil affects the Fraternity generally, and may, if persisted in, eventuate in the destruction of the institution of Freemasonry ”

He recommends non-intercourse by Grand bodies, who are against “such dangerous innovation.”

It is thus he pathetically closes his valedictory :

“Whatever happiness kind Providence has still in store for me it is definitely certain that those that look out of the windows have been permanently darkened. But the cheery voice and the warm grasp of the hand are still left, and among the most pleasing memories of a life now extended upon the scriptural limit are the faces and forms of those I have so often met in the Grand Bodies. I trust I may, under God’s providence, be permitted for many years yet to meet with you as “of yore.”

William H. Martin, Baltimore, Grand High Priest.

Geo. L. McCahan, Baltimore, Grand Secretary.

Massachusetts.

Chapters .. 74.

Members .. 15,557.

M. E. Companion Seranus Bowen, who was in 1897 re-elected Grand High Priest, was not fated to preside in that capacity at any of the convocations of the following year. Stricken with sore illness, he was unable to leave his bed, where the expressions of sympathy of his Companions in Grand Chapter were conveyed to him.

Among the memorials read at the Quarterly Convocation in September, 1898, was one dealing with the career of the late R. E. Companion James Smith, Past Grand Scribe, a resident of Boston for forty years, and who filled many public offices, among others that of State Senator. The deceased Companion was born in Nova Scotia in 1831.

The one hundredth Annual Convocation was held in Boston, December 13th, 1898, the R. E. Deputy Grand High Priest presiding. The Mark, Most Excellent, and Royal Arch degrees were exemplified by a selected staff of officers.

"The entire exemplification took a very high standard. Its distinguishing features may be said to be found in its correctness, its faithful interpretation of the lessons portrayed by the Ritual, and the evenness with which each officer rendered his part of the work to his associates."

R. E. Companion Arthur T. Way, Deputy Grand High Priest, introduced a brief address with feeling reference to the illness of M. E. Companion Bowen. He congratulated Grand Chapter on its progress, "of which we find the proof in a substantial gain in membership."

A petition for recognition from the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand was referred to a committee.

On the shoulders of M. E. Companion J. Gilman Waite, Grand Secretary, fell the Correspondent's mantle, worn for seven years by M. E. Companion Seranus Bowen, and we welcome "our first attempt," which, by the way, would lead one to suppose he had been there before. He generously gives three pages of his attention to Canada for 1898. Quoting Grand Z. Walsh's remarks touching a certain First Principal, who deliberately neglected his Chapter and utterly disregarded the solemn duties of his office, he adds:

"We have reproduced this paragraph, not for the purpose of creating in your minds an impression that such is the condition of the Rite in the Jurisdiction, for it is not : far from it. It has been done to illustrate to you the fallacy of *ever* putting such an officer at the head of a body. If he has not 'a sense of the eternal fitness of things' to take himself out of the way, then do your duty and drop him, for he will do you more harm in one year, in the loss of interest in your

Chapter, than his successor can restore in three. It is a case where the members will always have the remedy in their own hands."

Against Delaware's contention in favor of dependent membership, he argues thus :

"To this doctrine we are diametrically opposed. Let a Mason support what he most appreciates and best can afford. In the majority of cases the reason why some of the bodies are dropped to the exclusion of others, lies in the fact that the officers do *not* make the meetings interesting to the members, who, becoming weary of the condition of affairs, dimit and seek pleasanter associations. The Grand Bodies would be doing a far greater work for Masonry if they would devote their energies to the elevation of the standing of their Subordinates, rather than by the legislation of enactments to enable them to exist without effort. If a man is to 'appreciate what he pays for,' one of the first requisites he will claim will be the privilege of paying for what he wants. The old saying, 'You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink,' is just as true now as ever, and we apply it thus: You may compel a Mason to pay his dues in two or three bodies in order that he may retain his membership in one, but he will entertain no love for the one to which he pays money unwillingly, and less respect for the Grand Body that compels him to do so."

Commenting on a remark of Montana's reporter to the effect that "our English brethren do well in always making it a point to inquire if a candidate has the means to live creditably," he adds :

"These views are applicable not only to the particular locality to which they may seem to have been applied, but they deserve the thoughtful consideration of every organized Chapter. There are times when the making of Masonry should have a consideration even greater than that of the making of Masons. Masonry cannot support itself upon the record of its antiquity."

A most entertaining report throughout. Number two will be gladly welcomed.

Warren B. Ellis, Boston, Grand High Priest.

J. Gilman Waite, Boston, Grand Secretary.

Michigan.

Chapters .. 131.

Members .. 13,389.

Always interesting, the receipt of the proceedings of the fifty-first Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was cordially greeted. It is an extensive volume, and includes many tables of statistics carefully

and neatly compiled, the constitutions of Grand Chapter, edicts and rulings, and the "penal code," of which we have on former occasions had to remark.

Grand Chapter opened in Detroit on January 17th, 1899, with the customary large attendance of officers and delegates. There were no representatives of other Grand Chapters, Michigan being included in the minority of two that affects to despise the system.

Grand High Priest Norton, in addressing the Companions, touched upon the death of Past Grand High Priest Daniel Striker, of whom he said :

" We will remember him as a conservative, modest man, without arrogance or pride, walking among us as a companion in deed and truth—such a one as we delight to honor and cherish as a true hearted, gentle yet helpful spirit that we all need and all claim with fond recollections. We need not say more of him than this, that he was a *man* in all that it implies."

Among his decisions is the following, which is, according to the Jurisprudence Committee, strictly in line with Michigan's law. " Companion B.," however, is not to be regarded by the ordinary reader as a " brave " sample of Michigan's Companions :

Question.—At a regular convocation of the chapter, Brother A. was elected to receive the degrees. Companion B. came to the meeting to have Brother A. rejected but would not come into the chapter room and cast the black ball. Three days afterward Companion B. came to me and wished to file an objection to Brother A. I told him I could not receive an objection from him as he was present at the regular and had the privilege of casting a black ball if he so desired. Afterwards Companion C. called me up by 'phone, and filed an objection to Brother A., stating that he did not know Brother A., but was asked to make the objection by Brother B. Companion C. was not at the regular. At the next regular meeting I informed the lodge that an objection had been filed against Brother A., declared him rejected and ordered warrants drawn for return of fee. Was I right?

Answer.—After candidate was elected, Companion B's objection was valid and candidate should have been informed that he was rejected and money refunded. You did right in receiving the objection of Companion C.

A Chapter at Sault Ste. Marie rejected, in 1896, the application of a brother, who, the following year, went to Minneapolis, sojourned there for about three months, and received the degrees before returning, he stating that he had not previously been rejected. Complaint having

been made, the Grand High Priest of Minnesota, on consultation with the High Priest of the Minneapolis Chapter, *advised* that charges be preferred, and emphasized the fact in a communication to his colleague of Michigan that he did not *direct* that such a course be followed. The secretary of the Minneapolis Chapter later wrote to the secretary of the Chapter at Sault Ste. Marie, stating that charges were preferred against the offending Companion for unmasonic conduct, and that on the first ballot he was declared "not guilty" by a large majority.

The Grand High Priest then states that he forwarded the documents in the case to the Grand High Priest of Minnesota, and adds:

"I have since learned with sorrow, of the untimely death of our Most Excellent Companion, Grand High Priest Cutter, who was stricken down without a moments warning."

Thus a vexed question is rendered still more complicated by the terribly unexpected and lamentable inroad of death.

He received a petition for a dispensation for a new Chapter at Durand, but it had not been acted upon owing to an error. The North Branch Chapter, U.D., received its charter.

The report of the Grand Lecturer indicated that Companion Goodrich was not weary in well-doing. The story of his numerous visitations takes up seven pages of the volume, and he closes with a regret that he was unable to cover the entire one hundred and thirty-one.

The report of the Committee on Appeals was happily brief. The members had nothing to do.

Ontanagon Chapter No. 20, which had not made returns for three years, was declared defunct.

The three members of the Correspondence Committee divided up the work. Canada fell to Companion Bemiss. It is a brief and complimentary review.

Frank N. Clark, Northville, Grand High Priest.

Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater, Grand Secretary.

Minnesota.

Chapters .. 61.

Members .. 4,948.

In our review of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for 1897, we briefly noticed the regrettable circumstances under which Deputy Grand High Priest Oscar L. Cutter was unexpectedly compelled to assume the duties of the chief office, and his election as Grand High Priest naturally followed.

At the Annual Convocation in the city of St. Paul, on Tuesday, October 25th, 1898,

“The hall was draped in black, owing to the recent death of the Grand High Priest.”

And the Deputy Grand High Priest was again in the chair of the chief ruler.

“By a sudden visitation of the will of Divine Providence, which on Sunday, September 4th, ‘unexpectedly, in the midst of life, duty and usefulness,’ and on the eve of his preparations for this meeting, removed from this earth our beloved Companion, Oscar L. Cutter, Grand High Priest, it became my duty, under the constitution of this Grand Chapter, to assume the duties of Grand High Priest until this meeting.”

Such were his opening words to the Companions of Grand Chapter. Little wonder they were impressed as the record proceeded, and they listened to the tribute of his Companions to a good man.

“But Companion Cutter was not only an exemplary Mason. In the outer walks of life he was of that genial character and kindly disposition that made him a personal friend of all with whom he came in contact. He was warm-hearted and charitable, and entered zealously into whatever promised to promote the public good. In civil life, as well as in Masonry, he had filled every place in the gift of the people of his home, always with the highest honor, and his loss is universally mourned.

“Our own beloved Companion had not completed the ordinary span of life. The north wind’s breath overtook him on life’s journey and death claimed him for its own while in the full vigor of manhood. The summer of his life had passed, but its more beautiful autumn had scarce begun; the sere and the yellow leaf were yet to come. Though we miss his genial smile, his pleasant greeting, his ready wit, his hearty good nature and his affable manners; though we mourn his separation from us, we are consoled with the thought that—

“There is no death; what seems so is transition;
This life of immortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life Elysian,
Whose portal we call Death”

A very fine portrait of the deceased Companion is included with the volume of "Proceedings."

He issued two dispensations for new Chapters at Marshall and Wadena. Of the decisions one only is given :

"Question : One of the members of our lodge is anxious to join the chapter, but we are not sure that he is eligible, from the fact that he runs a bar in connection with his hotel. He is all right otherwise, and would make a good member.

"Answer : Not ineligible solely on account stated above."

The acting Grand High Priest announced the sad tidings that Past Grand High Priest Frank B. Fobes was lying at the point of death at his home in Albert Lea, stricken with paralysis.

A paragraph from the Grand Secretary's Report should go a long way to shake the conviction of the diminutive few who do not believe in the Grand Representative system :

"While in Edinburgh, in August, 1897, I made a friendly call on Companion Robert S. Brown, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Scotland, and then and there was tendered a commission as their Representative near the Grand Chapter of Minnesota. This tender was confirmed by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and since our last Convocation I have received the commission, dated September 15th, 1897, which I highly prize. I bring to you, my Companions, the hearty greetings of the Royal Craft in Scotland, and express a hope that the fraternal bond now uniting us may never be broken."

It was resolved to recognize the services of Past Grand High Priests by a distinctive jewel.

Companion Montgomery, the indefatigable Grand Secretary, again presents an admirable report on Correspondence, in which Canada for 1898 is included and treated with his usual generosity.

In replying to Companion Drummond on the question of when a dimit takes effect, he says, and we agree :

"We have known of brothers suddenly changing their minds, and, after a dimit was voted, to have the Master or Secretary seek to restore the brother to membership by omitting all allusion to the matter in the minutes. Our point is, that the moment the vote is declared the membership ceases, whether dimit is ever issued or not."

1899.

The thirty-eighth Annual Convocation was held in the St. Paul Masonic Temple on the 10th October, Grand High Priest Isaac L. Hart presiding. Addressing the Companions, he said :

“The cruel war-cloud which a year ago threatened to involve the entire civilized world has almost disappeared, and through it we can now see the advancement of justice and civilization in which Masonry is to take no small part ; for where Masonry is found there the good and beneficent teachings of the Father of all prevail.”

Three Chapters were constituted. He made a number of visitations. That to the Chapter at Stillwater was not a success, and he scores the officers severely.

Grand Secretary Montgomery in reporting a falling off in the annual increase, ascribes the cause to the Chapter secretaries :

“Dues ought not to be allowed to accumulate. They ought to be collected annually, and a faithful secretary can accomplish this if he will. I speak from experience.”

He hits the “mileage” allowance system a well-deserved blow thus :

“I would respectfully submit that we ought not hereafter pay for mileage more than actual cost. Last year, for instance, it cost us \$250 more than the amount paid the railroads. This ought to be saved to the Grand Body. Railroad fare is much cheaper than when the law was enacted nearly thirty years ago.”

But what of the Companions who accept more than is justly due to them ?

“Companion Swanstrom, as representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada, conveyed the greetings of that Grand Body.”

It was gratifying to notice that Canada's worthy representative was elevated to the position of Deputy Grand High Priest.

Companion Montgomery's correspondence report is terse and courteous as usual. We had animadverted to some extent on Minnesota's practice of “striking from the roll” Companions whose dues had remained for two years unpaid, and held that such summary treatment was “peculiar” to say the least. He replies :

"His remarks under Minnesota, while direct, as elsewhere, are couched in fraternal language. He still holds to the opinion that some of our time-honored usages and laws are 'unjust' and 'inconsistent with the teachings and principles of the craft,' which we deny, and makes light of the explanation of our practice in dealing with delinquents for nonpayment of dues. He asks us to explain what Masonic rights a nonaffiliate has. We answer: Every right and benefit in the general fraternity of Masons the world over imparted to him when he paid for his degrees, including the privilege of applying for lodge membership, if he so desires. A suspended Mason is debarred from every Masonic right and privilege. We may say right here, that we are not alone in our practice, and the writer dares also to affirm that there is only one legitimate way whereby a nonaffiliate can obtain membership in any Masonic body, and that is by formal petition and ballot. With us, except for definite suspension, only the Grand Lodge can restore one suspended or expelled to his general Masonic rights. After being thus restored, he can only acquire lodge membership by petition and unanimous ballot."

Well, if the "stricken out" Companion is satisfied with his "rights," there exists really no reason why anybody else should "kick" about the matter. Of course, if we still hold to the opinion that non-payment of dues, while reprehensible, is not a crime, Companion Montgomery will extend his benignant toleration. Quoting our closing words he adds:

"Be assured, Companion, of the appreciation of a former Canadian and hundreds of other Companions in Minnesota from "the Land of the Maple," as well as our entire brotherhood, of these kindly expressions. Minnesota will reciprocate as opportunity offers."

Josiah A. Peck, Wabasha, Grand High Priest.

Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

Mississippi.

Chapters .. 43.

Members .. 1,450.

The fiftieth Annual Convocation on the 9th Feb'y, 1898, was held in the hall of McConnico Chapter, in the town of Water Valley, situated in the county possessing the euphonious cognomen Yalolebsha - a combination striking enough to mark the half century of this Grand Chapter. Frank P. Jenkins, M. E. Grand High Priest, welcomed the Companions, but did not feel that he was a conspicuous success.

"When I entered upon the duties of the office to which you had honored me, a beautiful rainbow of hope seemed to encircle the Masonic

firmament and it gave promise of wonderful progress. A zeal and enthusiasm was manifest all over our jurisdiction, but it was of short duration. I believe the golden opportunity of making the one passed, the banner year of our history was in our grasp, and I feel that I was to a great extent responsible for the failure. I was in a position where I could not visit the Chapters myself."

He entertained an idea, however, that a remedy could be discovered somewhere.

"Capitular Masonry in Mississippi is a broad field and there remaineth much land to be possessed. The percentage of Chapters to Lodges is too small. Our great need is a Companion who is willing to devote his time exclusively to the work of building up Capitular Masonry."

Genuinely does he deplore the existing state of things. Unaffiliates are numerous, and he unselfishly discloses the cause:

"The reason they are not in our ranks to-day is simply from the fact that we have no one to establish or instruct them in our sublime Ritual. They have lost all interest in it. They have wandered from the fold and have not heard the voice of the shepherd, and how could they hear the shepherd when he was staying in one place and the sheep were grazing in another? We want a Companion who will go forth thoroughly capable of bringing back these wanderers."

Now, here, is the opportunity. Where is the man? But having confessed himself a failure he desires to show that, in his address at anyrate, he is not lacking in enthusiasm and zeal.

"Let no obstacle impede our progress. Our State is developing; its institutions of learning are the equal of any in the land. The churches are growing in numbers and interest. Industries of various kinds are springing up around us. Let Masonry pluck some of the fruits of this tree of prosperity that seem to grow so luxuriantly throughout our borders. Then this is the golden opportunity. Let us take advantage of it before we retrograde beyond the hope of redemption; and if we procrastinate much longer, this will be our fate. Would that I could inspire you with an ardent zeal and enthusiasm for this great and noble work, in which I feel the most profound interest."

A signet ring of pure gold, which the Grand Secretary, Companion Power, designed to present to Grand Chapter, and which he suggested should be used at the investiture of each succeeding Grand High Priest, had not arrived, but he earned the thanks of Grand Chapter just the same.

The Grand Lecturer reported that he had experi-

enced much difficulty in his efforts to arouse the sleepy chapters.

"Now, while a Companion who is thorough in ritualistic work is to be prized, yet I am fully persuaded that an imperfect workman who is more zealous, is to be preferred above him. There must be an enthusiast to lead, if a Chapter is kept up without some work now and then, I will admit, but if there is the proper life and knowledge displayed—if those within the veils would act as to merit the esteem of those without—there would be occasional work in the courts."

He wrote to a number of chapters announcing a school of instruction, and urged the necessity of attendance. About half replied that they would attend.

"Well, such is life, especially that of a Grand Lecturer; but I am going to hold that school if I have to go out in the by-ways to get those who will attend.

"The school did materialize; eight Companions attended; gave close attention to work and lectures, and have been benefitted."

Companion P. M. Savery furnishes a most palatable report on Correspondence. His introduction is redolent of the soil:

"The crop of 1897 has been gathered; the products of different plantations, ginned by their respective Managers or Grand Secretaries, have been through our Reportorial Compress and are herewith delivered.

"The samples are largely long staple and none class lower than strict good middling, therefore entitled to highest market rates. None of the crop is sand or water-packed, but vouched for as strictly up to sample.

"We have had hard work to compress the Past Master and its accessories, even with a Drummond Screw, as the Canada Press would not work, and in that jurisdiction future planting of Past Master seed is prohibited, nevertheless, it is still cultivated in the United States on account of its *oil* and *meal*.

"The Ritual of the General Grand Chapter advertised as seed most prolific, is coming into general use, and with aid of Hendricks and Speed Fertilizer, is warranted to be profitable, even at four cents.

"Dependent membership thrives in most all fertile soils, and is highly prized by such planters as have used it for many years.

"N. P. D. is a disease worse than rust or boll worm, and non-affiliation creates wall flowers in the social element of Masonry."

He had Canada for 1897 under his eye, and made a couple of pages of extract.

1899.

M. E. the Rev. John A. B. Jones, Grand High

Priest, presided over the fifty-first Annual Convocation in Vicksburg on the 7th February, 1899.

"I congratulate you, companions, and rejoice with you for the honor and the pleasure of enjoying the hospitality of this famous city nestled among these historic hills. Vicksburg has an enviable and imperishable record. Here, more than half a century since, May 18th, A.D. 1846, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Mississippi was organized in this Masonic Temple."

Among those called away, and to whose memories the Grand High Priest paid eloquent tribute was Grand Treasurer William Gallatin Paxton.

The absence, through illness, of Companion P. M. Savery, the talented chairman of the Foreign Correspondence Committee was feelingly referred to:

"A tower of strength, a wise expounder and exemplifier, a safe counsellor, a magnanimous companion."

Application was made by a chapter for a dispensation on behalf of a Master Mason who desired the Chapter degrees, and this extraordinary plea was put forward in his behalf:

"He is physically unable to take the R. A. degree. He has been afflicted from birth—something like paralysis in his legs and arms. He has use of them, but is weak and could not take the degree in full. I notice in the Digest of Decisions of 1895, page 21, section 42, that a Chapter has a right to advance maimed brothers who are otherwise worthy and well-qualified. Would this apply in his case?"

The Grand High Priest replied that the section referred to

"Does not 'apply in his case.' 'Maimed' cannot 'apply' to a brother 'afflicted from birth with something like paralysis in his legs and arms.'"

"The Grand High Priest cannot grant 'a dispensation' to communicate the R. A. degree to Brother ——, by simply permitting him 'to see a full class of three take it.'"

Now there is a pretty distinction. If the brother was "maimed" but otherwise strong, he was, according to Mississippi law, eligible, but being whole and with the use of his limbs, though weak, he is debarred. The question naturally arises: How did he come to receive the primary degrees?

The Grand Secretary's report showed that the receipts for the year were \$1549 46. The pay roll totalled \$1042 77.

New Zealand's appeal for recognition was deferred pending the decision of General Grand Chapter.

M. E. Companion Savery, whose speedy restoration to health is most earnestly prayed for, prepared under distressing conditions a capital report on correspondence. Canada for 1898 is briefly reviewed.

"Report on Correspondence was by Reporter Companion George J. Bennett. Proceedings reviewed, forty-four. Mississippi, for 1897, received fraternal notice, gives us a rap about our small treasury balance, suggesting that it is the pay roll instead of blessed charity that absorbs the shekels; which is the truth."

Thos. B. Franklin, Columbus, Grand High Priest.

J. L. Power, Jackson, Grand Secretary.

Missouri.

Chapters . . 96.

Members . . 6,924.

M. E. Companion Charles S. Glaspell, whose portrait is included in the volume of proceedings, was Grand High Priest when the fifty-third Annual Convocation assembled at St. Louis, on the 27th April, 1899, and greeted his Companions in an eighteen page address that evinced much thought and zeal. He congratulated the Grand Chapter on its peace and prosperity.

"Our friendly relations with all other Grand Chapters are linked together by ties of love and good-will, and no contentions exist."

Good for the "friendly" relations. And at home

"The banners of Friendship, Union, Fervency and Zeal and Purity stand side by side with the Star-Spangled banner, that emblem of liberty and justice, and are ki-sed by the breezes from every section of our country. Intolerance and religious bigotry have assaulted the foundation principles of Royal Arch Masonry; they have stood the test of war; and when opposition shall have passed away, and is buried in the oblivion of the past; when the last trump shall have sounded, and the earth shall be no more, the sublime virtues, the foundation principles of Capitular Masonry will remain and shine among the choicest gems through all eternity."

He did not promise Grand Chapter that he would visit all the subordinates during his year, but he covered a great deal of ground nevertheless, and saw the work in some twenty-five. Not alone did he witness it, but he showed them what he could do himself.

“During my visitations I have conferred the Mark Master’s degree upon forty-eight candidates ; the Past Master’s degree upon forty ; the Most Excellent Master’s degree upon seventy-five ; and exalted to the most sublime degree of the Royal Arch eighty-one ; a total of two hundred and forty-four degrees. When not engaged in conferring degrees, I instructed in the floor work of the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master’s degrees. I found that the financial part of the Chapter work is not always conducted upon business principles ; that the large arrearages of dues in the Subordinate Chapters is caused by the High Priest and Secretary not performing their duties.”

He was particularly impressed with the benefit that resulted from these official visitations. One Charter was arrested and one new Chapter instituted.

From the report of the Committee on Cipher Ritual the following is excerpted :

“In the preparation of the Cipher Ritual we were guided by the consideration to protect the esoteric work and not to issue what might be termed an exposé, but rather to present a Cipher Ritual that would be a guide and aid to the officers who are willing to learn the work. The Committee, therefore, excluded all explanations of steps, signs, grips and words.”

Now that was really very considerate, indeed, most thoughtful of the Committee. What the lamented Pillans would say were he alive and perused the above we shudder to contemplate.

The report of the Committee on the Masonic Home showed that it had at the time 114 inmates, and that its affairs were economically managed. A bequest of \$10,000 from the late Mrs. M. A. Higgins, a widow, was announced.

Grand Secretary Mayo, who does everything well, submitted, “for information and criticism” his twentieth report on Correspondence, and in the first respect succeeds admirably and leaves little to criticise. He reserves a kind corner for Canada, 1898. May he long be spared to annually entertain and instruct his Companions of Missouri.

Henry L. Bosworth, Springfield, Grand High Priest.
Wm. H. Mayo, St. Louis, Grand Secretary.

Montana.

Chapters . . 15.

Members . . 832.

The tenth Annual Convocation was held in the City of Helena, on September 19th, 1899. Grand High Priest, S. C. Kenyon, presiding. His address was brief. He advocated dependent membership. "Lack of time and money" prevented him from visiting more than two Chapters.

"I issued a Commission, July 20th, at the request of the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand to Companion John M. Brown as our representative near that Grand Body. I also received a commission from the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand as their representative near this Grand Chapter.

This was a bad break on the part of the Grand High Priest, for he is reminded later by the Committee that the Grand Representative system was abolished in Montana in 1893. But where was the Grand Secretary in the matter?

The report of the Grand Secretary showed the membership had received an accession of twenty-one in the year.

The Grand High Priest's reason why he failed to visit more Chapters, awakened Grand Chapter to its duty for it was

"Resolved, That the sum of One Hundred Dollars or so much thereof as may be needed is hereby annually appropriated towards the travelling expenses of the Grand High Priest in visiting the chapters of the jurisdiction."

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred a resolution pertaining to setting aside Grand Chapter funds for the benefit of a Masonic Home presented the following resolution :

"Be it resolved, that the sum of Five Hundred Dollars be transferred from the General Fund of this Grand Chapter to a special fund hereby created to be known as the Endowment Fund of the Grand Chapter of Montana.

"And be it further resolved, That ten per cent. of the net annual receipts be appropriated for the increase of such fund and that the said amounts be transferred to said fund each and every year hereafter. We further recommend that the above funds be placed at interest under such restrictions and in such manner as the Grand Treasurer and Grand Council may agree upon.

Companion Hedges again presents an all original report on Correspondence. From his introduction we take the following :

"That the past year has been an eventful one to the world, and especially to our country and the far East. Only indirectly is Capitular Masonry involved and interested. But with the expansion of our national domain to the south and far east, the expansion of Masonry in all departments is also associated. Obstacles have been removed, formidable and relentless enemies have been overthrown and effectually destroyed, and the empire of Anglo-Saxon liberty and law, so congenial to Masonic growth, has witnessed world-wide expansion in both hemispheres. Whether or not it be true, as many believe, that the Anglo-Saxons are descendants of the "Lost Tribes of Israel" to whom the inheritance of the earth was promised, there are indications of the fulfilment of prophecy along this line, and Masonry will have a freehand in rebuilding the waste places and preparing the way for the coming of the Lord."

He gives much thought and space to the General Grand Chapter and incidentally refers to the governing feature of the Blue and Royal Arch and completes a trio by adding what he calls "Templar Masonry :"

"In Blue Masonry each Grand Lodge is sovereign and independent, restrained only by generally accepted principles of comity. In Capitular Masonry the Grand Bodies possess the chief powers, loosely confederated into a General Grand Body, and in Templar Masonry we see quite another principle prevailing, with distinctive attributes of sovereignty in the Grand Encampment, perhaps traceable to the semi-military nature of that body. In Blue Masonry the Ancient Landmarks, rather ill-defined, operate somewhat like a fundamental constitution. In Chapter Masonry much the same principles prevail and the National organization now exercises the very desirable function of promoting wider social intercourse, while Templar Masonry unites with the features of Blue and Capitular Masonry the distinctive observances of the Christian Religion and the military features, expressed in patronage of church festivals and public parades, the etiquette and amenities of Masonic intercourse."

Very nice, indeed. Well, we have been a Templar for many years but never discovered the Masonry in it till now. Think of it! Under the ostrich plumes of the gaudy chapeau and hidden within the tight-fitting thirteen button military frock may be found "the etiquette and amenities of Masonic intercourse." Just fancy what the Craft would have lost but for those modern "military features." Another illustration of the old adage, "we live and learn."

We are glad to have had the privilege of perusing this admirable and instructive report and regret that Canada was not included.

Alfred Bamforth, Butte, Grand High Priest.

Cornelius Hedges, Helena, Grand Secretary.

Nebraska.

Chapters .. 52.

Members .. 2,919.

Again the returns in this jurisdiction show a loss in membership, but not so much as in the previous year by about half. Twenty-five Chapters were represented at the thirty-second annual Convocation held in Omaha on the 14th December, 1898.

Severe illness necessitated the retirement from all business of the Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion Robert H. Henry, shortly after assuming office, and in consequence the address read to Grand Chapter was in the nature of an explanation and apology. Deputy Grand High Priest J. J. Mercer, however, willingly undertook the duties his superior was unable to perform, and supplemented that officer's address by a relation of his doings under the circumstances.

He reported the jurisdiction in a condition of blissful happiness.

Two petitions he received for new Chapters, but they were held pending further proof of proficiency on the part of those making application.

Brief and satisfactory were the reports of the Grand Secretary and Treasurer. That on Deceased Members told the sad story that twice the number of Companions had been called away that were reported in the previous year.

The business before Grand Chapter was of routine character only, and was relieved by the presentation of a bouquet to the Deputy Grand High Priest.

A valuable report on Correspondence was contributed by Companion Charles J. Phelps. An introductory chapter is in the nature of a defence of the

“Order of High Priesthood,” and its right to object to a candidate for membership therein.

In his review of Canada for '98 he is generally complimentary.

“Voluminous reports from the District Grand Superintendents, ten in all, serve not only to make up quite a volume, but also to consume the time of the Grand Chapter to an extent which, with other official reports and the reports of standing committees, are about all one finds in the proceedings.”

A few such voluminous reports in Nebraska's proceedings would not only assist to embellish the volume, but would probably aid materially in staying an annual falling away in membership, which must have a most dispiriting effect on the compiler. Of the reporter he speaks kindly :

“R. E. Companion George J. Bennett writes the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of forty-four Grand Jurisdictions, five of which are for two years each, making a paper of one hundred and thirty-five pages. By diligence, with careful discernment, he zealously presents work in a spirit worthy the commendation accorded to that ancient sojourner, whose labors tradition has so well preserved.

“Under Maine, he presents views justifying Canada's elimination of the Past Master's Degree, and meets Companion Drummond's emphatic propositions with arguments not easily overthrown. If there were anything of real merit in the degree, or if it were essential as a prerequisite to the Royal Arch, then to maintain it would be our clear duty ; but as it is, the disposition manifested to get rid of it is but natural to some of us. To this Nebraskan it is about essential, in Masonry, as a firm belief and abiding faith in the existence of the airship is to membership among the subjects of Ak-Sar-Ben the IV.”

John J. Mercer, Omaha, Grand High Priest.

Francis E. White, Omaha, Grand Secretary.

Nevada.

Chapters . . 7.

Members . . 308.

Virginia city was honored with the twenty-sixth Annual Convocation, held on the 12th June, 1899. Grand High Priest McCormack's address was brief, and dealt mainly with local matters. He reported favorably of the Chapters visited by him. Recommended a revision of the Constitution, that candidates for degrees

be required to pass an examination, and that the duty of visitation be undertaken by the four principal Grand officers.

The Grand Secretary reported all returns made and all dues paid.

Gold Hill Chapter, No. 8, with a membership of 34, surrendered its Charter.

The local Chapter of the O. E. S. invited the delegates to an entertainment and banquet, which was accepted.

New Zealand was recognized.

The Grand High Priest's recommendations for a revision of the Constitution, and for visitations by Grand Officers, were disapproved by the Jurisprudence Committee.

A resolution of thanks to the ladies of the Eastern Star, for florally decorating the hall and the delegates, was passed.

Companion A. D. Bird presented a compilation of Rules and Decisions, for which he was deservedly thanked. He also presented the report on Correspondence, a "jewel" of rare price and *multum in parvo*. He reviews Canada for 1898, and quotes the Grand Z. approvingly.

"Companion Bennett has a nice and very entertaining report on Correspondence. One of those relishing kind. All the substantial of a feast with some of the 'rooster' sauce, the little 'Bird' calls it, put in at the right places.

"We are not angry, Companion, at being called 'a bird'—getting accustomed to it now, as we have heard it about forty years; but be careful and not put a 'jay' before it when you next review Nevada.

"May Nevada have as good a review from all as Companion Bennett gives us. We could not ask for more.

Nothing there that the little "Bird" didn't deserve.

A. O. Percy, Gold Hill, Grand High Priest.

C. N. Noteware, Carson City, Grand Secretary.

New Brunswick.

Chapters . . 8.

Members . . 454.

The last Chapter on the Scottish register, Mount Lebanon, of Chatham, is now a constituent of the Grand

Chapter of New Brunswick, under conditions submitted by the Chapter itself in November, 1897, and which were unreservedly concurred in by the Grand Body. They read as follows:

"1. That we retain the name of Mount Lebanon Royal Arch Chapter.

"2. Companions of Mount Lebanon Chapter to individually retain the rank they have attained, and this Chapter take precedence from the date of the original warrant, 15 June, 1864.

"3. Grand Chapter to defray any or all expense that may be incidental to the change of Charter.

"4. That we be supplied with the Ritual of the Grand Chapter of New Brunswick, and also copies of blank demits, notices, Chapter by-laws, etc., as used in Subordinate Chapters, Saint John.

"Mount Lebanon Chapter to retain the use of the Scottish Ritual for two years, or until the Chapter is conversant with and prepared to work the New Brunswick Ritual.

"6. That the jurisdiction of Mount Lebanon Chapter be at all times recognized and enforced.

"7. That the dues payable to the Grand Chapter by Mount Lebanon Chapter begin and be payable from the first day of January, 1900.

Grand High Priest John V. Ellis, in his address to the eleventh Annual Convocation at St. John, on the 24th August, 1898, congratulated the Companions on this happy consummation.

"Our membership has increased of itself, but the chief gain is due to the accession of Mount Lebanon Chapter, formerly under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, which has, I am glad to say, placed itself upon our roll. No doubt it parted with its mother Grand Chapter, as we all did, with regret. Its association with us we hail with delight, and we welcome its representatives here to-day. Our eight Chapters are in good condition."

Feelingly he referred to the passing away of Companion J. Henry Leonard, Grand Treasurer of Grand Chapter since its formation:

"My own acquaintance with Companion Leonard covered a period of forty years, and I was actively associated with him in Masonic work for nearly all of that time. He was a warm friend, an excellent citizen, an honorable man, a just and upright Mason, and the brightness of his nature affected all of us who were intimate with him. He had filled the chair in Carleton Union Lodge, and in Union Chapter. He was for a term Deputy Grand Master of the Province. He discharged effectively his duties in the Order of the Temple, and the Great Priory of Canada but a year ago conferred upon him Past Rank. He was active in the Scottish Rite, in which he had attained to the

Thirty-second Degree, and he was Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland for the Maritime Provinces."

Another loss to the Craft he thus refers to :

"On December 16th, 1897, Companion the Honorable James Mitchell, of St. Stephen Chapter, died after an illness of long duration, against which he vigorously struggled. Although filling the position of Premier of the Province, and devoted to a political life, Companion Mitchell gave a good deal of his time to the Craft. He had filled the chair in his Lodge and Chapter. He was a member of the Order of the Temple."

He made a number of visitations to the subordinate Chapters and attended New York's centenary celebration at Albany, of which he speaks in eulogistic terms. He offers good counsel in the following :

"With this jurisdiction now entirely in our hands, and with all the Chapters working harmoniously, we will be wise to take thought of the future. Nothing but a miracle will give us rapid growth, and the days of miracles have passed. What we have in trust should be safely guarded. Our income is necessarily small, and we should exercise an economy so strict and rigid that we may be able to add something to that income by a quick investment of what we can spare, so that we may have a little more to depend on than the contributions of the Chapters."

The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$201.96.

The M. E. Grand High Priest requested the Grand Captain of the Host to present E. Companion F. E. Danville, Scribe of Mount Lebanon Chapter, to the East, where he was warmly welcomed to Grand Chapter. The Grand High Priest expressed his rare satisfaction and that of the Companions that Mount Lebanon Chapter had now placed itself on the roll of this Grand Chapter. Companion Danville replied in the same spirit.

The Grand High Priest was continued in office and R. E. Companion Edwin J. Everett was chosen Treasurer in place of the late Companion Leonard.

1899.

M. E. Companion J. V. Ellis again presided when the twelfth Annual Convocation assembled at St. John, on August 23rd, 1899. Addressing the Companions he said :

"Despite a declaration which I made in my address last year and were good enough to again elect me by a practically unanimous vote to the honorable position of head of this Grand Chapter. In accepting office for the sixth time I took occasion to say that I yielded to your kindness against my own judgment, but that I did so for the last time. To that I adhere. It is not in the interests of our association to continue any executive officer too long in one position. In my own case I feel that I have not made you ample return for your consideration and regard. An absence of over five months from the province has considerably interfered with my plans ; but what was unavoidable must be accepted by you as my excuse for unperformed duty."

"However, the affairs of Royal Arch Masonry in New Brunswick have not suffered. The officers of Grand Chapter and the Executive Board have carried on the work effectively and the returns and statements to be submitted to you will show an increase in membership and in funds. The best of feeling prevails in our subordinate bodies, and our membership, though it is not large, is an excellent one, and we may well be proud of it. As I have more than once said we cannot hope to grow rapidly in numbers, but over that we need not mourn if we govern with prudence and are able to spread among our companions the spirit of harmony and the love of mankind, the cultivation of which is the principal object of the Masonic Institution."

Feelingly he refers to the death of New Brunswick's representative near the Grand Chapter of New York, Companion A. W. Peters.

"Companion Peters was a native of this city and a brother of our late Companion B. L. Peters, the first Grand Principal of this Grand Chapter. In early life he went to New York where he filled important positions of trust, and at the time of his death was President of the Borough of Manhattan, an important position in the civic government of his adopted city."

New Brunswick, in adopting the nomenclature of the United States, it is presumed, adopted some of its ritual also. Grand High Priest Ellis thus ventures his opinion :

"Speaking personally while I am fully cognizant of the advantage of having our ritual similar to that in general use on this continent, I may say that the existing ritual does not appear to me in its symbolism or its teaching to be as interesting, as instructive, or as consistent as either the rituals used in England or Scotland. Perhaps one's judgment in a matter of this kind depends upon the point of view and upon the idea which may exist in the mind of the particular object for which the ritual is used. Any companion who will compare the English and Scottish rituals with that in use generally on this continent will be compelled to admit that in the matter of symbolic interest they are far superior ; but after all it may be satisfactorily concluded that any well worked out ritual now in use will fully suit all our needs."

If "symbolic interest" means anything at all, it should certainly be sustained in its highest and most impressive aspect in the Royal Arch degree. Companion Ellis is not quite consistent in remaining satisfied with "any well worked out ritual" after a declaration like the above.

The submission of the last Chapter on the Scottish register to that of New Brunswick paved the way for overtures in the way of an interchange of representatives. His advances have not yet been recognized.

"I very much regret that the Grand Chapter of Scotland has not paid any attention to a request which I sent it to enter into fraternal relations with us. It declined to do so so long as it had in this Province a Chapter upon its roll. That reason no longer exists, but my last communication to its Grand Scribe E. remains unanswered. Perhaps it is not of much importance, but it is noteworthy."

On recommendation of the Grand High Priest the young Grand Chapter of New Zealand was recognized.

He announced that he had ordered a set of collars for the Grand Officers, a presentation to Grand Chapter, but they had not arrived in time.

The Grand Secretary reported a total membership of 454, a net gain of 17.

John A. Watson, St. John, Grand High Priest.

William B. Wallace, St. John, Grand Secretary.

New Hampshire.

Chapters . . 25.

Members . . 3,594.

M. E. Companion John H. Steele presided over the deliberations of the seventy-ninth Annual Convocation held at Concord, on Tuesday, May 17th, 1898.

He granted only two dispensations and had no questions submitted for decision. Lucky Grand High Priest.

The Chapters for visitation purposes were as usual divided among the chief officers, and the Grand High Priest did his share conscientiously.

"In a few of the Chapters I have been obliged to criticise their work somewhat severely in the Royal Arch degree, and I consider it the

duty of all visiting officers to insist that the work should be confined to the ritual, and rendered in such a manner as to make it impressive to the candidate and do away with all idea of levity."

There are folks who could extract hilarity out of a funeral ceremony, but surely the Companions might well confine the "funny business," if they require such, to the elastic arena of the Past Master.

The reports of the visiting officers were interesting and indicate that much good was effected.

There was very little to engage Grand Chapter in the way of business and no doubt the dinner provided was enjoyed all the more. After that necessary function the officers were installed.

In the report of the Committee on Correspondence, personified in that most excellent Companion, A. S. Wait, Canada, does not appear strange to say, for he has not reviewed us since 1896. Something wrong with the mails. He, as usual, furnishes an interesting narrative of his journeyings through the several jurisdictions and gives occasionally of his wise observations. To the contention that the actual presence of the Charter is necessary, he says :

"We do not think, moreover, as we have heretofore expressed, that the formula of our Lodge rituals relating to the subject necessarily means that the charter must be actually present in the Lodge hall in order to the legality of the work. It refers, as seems to us, to the modern legislative requirement that Lodges should exist only by virtue of their charters, and not to any necessity of its actual presence at the place of meeting."

He expresses astonishment that the learned Companion Drummond, of Maine, would not accept as clear, his views on physical qualification, and adds :

"We are literally in despair, for we made our best and most earnest effort in the language above reproduced to make our meaning plain, hoping that thereby the discussion might end."

This provoked a sympathetic smile. "There are others," who have learned that with not a few, the close of a discussion means conviction, and the convicted cannot be otherwise than in a position opposite to the "judge."

He notes the record that the tiled precincts of a

Grand Chapter were invaded by a body of Sisters of the Eastern Star, and, without regarding what may be in store for him, says :

“If similar invasions are continued, and without protest, we do not think it difficult to foresee what will ensue.”

1899.

In the city of Concord again the Grand Chapter met in its eightieth Annual Convocation, on May 16th, 1899. M. E. Companion Charles H. Webster, announced that his duties had been light and largely of a routine character. He notes among those departed, the death of M. E. Companion Edward Gustine who presided over Grand Chapter in 1872 and 1873.

He made a number of visitations and observed that the “book of marks” was the exception rather than the rule. The Jurisprudence Committee to whom the matter was referred asked further time to consider.

Companion A. S. Wait is again the author of the report on Correspondence, and he is undoubtedly the man in the right place. The report throughout commands perusal and is replete with instruction. He missed Canada last year, but on this occasion he reviews us for two years and with his usual generosity.

We had referred to Companion Wait's criticism of North Dakota in admitting to its Convocation at refreshments of course, an organization distinct from the Craft and suggested a trace of inconsistency in New Hampshire permitting a similar body to have the use of Masonic lodge-rooms and finding an advocate in Companion Wait. He thus replies :

“The argument seems thus rather to attack our consistency than our soundness. It assumes that because we do not condemn public installations we ought to be in favor of recognizing the bodies of the Eastern Star as so far masonic as to admit them bodily into our Royal Arch Chapters—and this especially because we are willing that for the purposes of their meetings they should occupy our masonic halls. We think that neither the one nor the other follows. Our ground for allowing them this latter privilege was distinctly stated to be, that while they made no claim that their bodies were masonic, as individuals they stood in universally recognized relations to masonry such as would warrant the extending to them this courtesy. Had they

claimed to be in the remotest sense masonic, as an organization, they would by ourselves, and we believe would by every mason in New Hampshire, be held to be spurious, and as such have been without ceremony denied any such privilege. This may be inconsistent, but we do not so see it. In regard to public installations: We found them recognized when we were first admitted to masonic light; and not only so, but that they had the sanction of at least a very long practice in most of the Grand Masonic Jurisdictions with which we came to be acquainted. We discovered, moreover, that in the ritual of the ceremony there was nothing private or esoteric—nothing that might not be read in our published monitorial works by any profane. We therefore saw nothing in it inconsistent with the strictest teachings of the masonic institution. We have not in this yet undergone any conversion. If there is in the minds of masons a sentiment against public installations we think it begotten of other parentage than masonic principle. We do not insist that it is the duty of Companion Bennett, or of the Companions of his jurisdiction, to believe in public installations; but we do insist that if he proposes to censure Companions for thinking otherwise he is justly bound to show some substantial ground for his assumption."

To the above we would take the liberty of directing his own words. "It is by no means impossible that we labor under an undue bias from our early Masonic teachings and associations," and must therefore hold to our argument which, by the way, was not intended to be interpreted as "censure." That "undue bias," however, leads us to regard with jealousy any attempt at violating the sanctity of the Ancient Craft, and we must confess that Companion Wait's defence that "as individuals they stood in universally recognised relations to Masonry such as would warrant the extending to them this courtesy," only establishes us in the conviction that the claim is wrong. There are existing organizations that might with equal justice advance similar reasons, and others may yet arise.

When thirty years ago we first perused the clauses of the Grand Lodge Constitution among others that took root in our memory was the following:

"It is improper to allow a lodge room to be used jointly with other Societies or for other than Masonic purposes; this however shall not be construed as excluding bodies that claim to be Masonic and are founded on Craft Masonry."

It is to-day as it was then, and we have never heard of any attempt to violate it. Companion Wait insisted

that some substantial ground for our assumption should be shown. There it is, and we must be pardoned under the circumstances for repeating the oft expressed belief that this growing desire to open our doors to the outside and curious, whether it be to installations or anything else, must surely deprive us as a body of the respect which our old time conservatism and exclusiveness demanded and received from the best elements of the community.

Charles H. Webster, Nashua, Grand High Priest.

Geo. P. Cleaves, Concord, Grand Secretary.

New Jersey.

Chapters . . 38.

Members . . 3,373.

In Ample Form the forty-third Annual Convocation was opened at Trenton on the 10th May, 1899, Grand High Priest John B. Bertholf presiding.

Companions John W. Palmer, Grand High Priest; J. Harris Balston, Grand King; George E. W. Stivers, Past Grand High Priest; and George B. Edwards, Grand Representative, of the Grand Chapter of New York, were announced and received with Royal Arch courtesies.

"The year just passed has been an uneventful one in the history of the Grand Chapter, nothing having occurred to disturb the peace and harmony prevailing among the Craft."

From this introduction of the Grand High Priest one would assume that it is a disturbance only that must be regarded as an event. Well, in this regard we join in the hope that every coming year in New Jersey will be "uneventful."

A number of waivers of jurisdiction in favor of brethren resident in New Jersey, but who desired to receive the degrees in New York or Pennsylvania, were granted, the Grand High Priest remarking:

"It is very gratifying to know that our Companions on the other side of the river still retain their high opinion of the quality of the material to be found in the Masonic quarries of New Jersey."

A complaisance which may account in some measure for the drop in the gross membership. The Grand High Priest, however, finds consolation in the fact that "fraternal relations with sister jurisdictions continue to be of the most friendly character."

The Committee on the Doings of Grand Officers refer to the giving away of material thus :

"We note with interest and concern the increasing list of waivers of jurisdiction, and are of the opinion that the asking for and granting of such waivers is generally unnecessary, and should be discouraged."

The reports of the visiting officers are brief. A remark of the Grand King is worth reproducing, however, as it voices an opinion which is not confined to New Jersey :

"The one thing most lacking in a few of the Chapters visited seems to be the want of enthusiasm and desire on the part of the younger members to avoid taking any official position which requires them to commit a considerable part of the work. A notable feature in a large majority of the Chapters is the fact that were it not for Past High Priests and their proficiency it would often be impossible to fill the offices or even to hold a meeting."

Adversely reporting on a decision of the Grand High Priest, the Committee on Constitution submitted the following :

"A by-law of a Subordinate Chapter exempting Past High Priests from the payment of dues is un-Masonic, and the adoption of such a by-law is hereby prohibited."

To the Committee on Correspondence the following resolution was referred; but what the Committee reported, if it did report, deponent sayeth not. It is presumed that the recognition of colored brethren by the Grand Lodge of Washington is the origin :

"*Resolved*, That in consequence of the severance of fraternal relations between the Masons owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of New Jersey and those of the Grand Lodge of Washington, that visitations and recognition of Royal Arch Masons of that Grand Jurisdiction be and are hereby prohibited."

Grand Secretary Geo. B. Edwards is the chairman of the Committee, and is responsible for the entertaining review of forty-six Grand Chapters in the appendix. Canada's "peculiarities" seem to weary him consider-

ably. He doesn't get value for his money when Zerubabel, Haggai, and Joshua are cut down to the initials "Z.," "H.," and "J.," and positively moans at sight of "Excellent Companion" being mutilated and served up as "Ex. Comp."

Referring to the Canadian review, he quotes us on the subject of the lady element in the lodge room, but refrains from uttering a disclaimer.

"Several items appear in the report relative to the above subject and to the obliteration of the degree of Past Master from the Canada system. No new arguments are presented, neither in enforcement against the one nor in defence of the latter. Indeed, there is scarcely room for any. The Grand Chapter of Canada has the undoubted right to legislate for her own, and her own territory, but when her members cross the line and "visit the United States, which so many American writers regard as 'the universe,'" and desire to participate in the privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, they will have to conform to existing conditions and become Past Masters. Induction, as efficient for its purpose as was circumcision to the Jewish proselyte."

There was no necessity to present any new argument from this side of the line. Enough is furnished by American writers to support Canada's action. We are quite aware of the existing conditions and the necessity for conforming to them, but that does not alter the fact that the degree is out of place in the Chapter, and, to quote a distinguished American writer, "the jurisdiction over it by Chapters is altogether an assumed one," the assumption, as has been argued, impairing the universality of the system.

The following, from a current number of the *Freemason and Fez*, published at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will probably serve to emphasize the statement that Masonic writers in the United States can and do furnish argument in abundance to array against "existing conditions":

"That there is room for improvement in the work of exaltation is only doubted by those who have not witnessed the affair as conducted somewhere. When one considers that it epitomizes a religious act and the reverence of our ancient 'Jewish Companions' for the forethought of King Solomon, it must be wide of the true impression to note how frivolous some of the work is done. To witness the passing of the L. A. under the most strenuous effort to introduce 'barn storming' denouements certainly fails to teach the 'humility'

that finally wins exaltation. We are not apologists for tame work, but protestants against horse play. . . . If there must be jolification let it come in at some other place, not in the Royal Arch degree. If we were suggesting a place for the concentration of all the 'hoss' business, it would be in the P. M. degree—vermiform appendage and uncalled for injection into the ceremonies of Masonry—but keep the other Chapter degrees on the high plane to which they belong."

Levi G. Bliss, Long Branch, Grand High Priest.

Geo. B. Edwards, Jersey City, Grand Secretary.

New York.

Chapters .. 189.

Members .. 20,560.

A net gain of 228 is recorded for the year in this the largest Grand Chapter of the continent.

The attendance at the one hundred and second Annual Convocation held at Albany on February 7th, 1899, was, as usual very large, over three hundred officers and delegates being present. An excellent engraved portrait of Grand High Priest Webb is included with the proceedings. His address to the Companions was earnest and thorough. He visited a number of the Chapters and says:

"These official visits, in my judgment, are of two-fold benefit: To officers visiting, and to the Chapters visited.

"To the officer visiting, in that it keeps him in touch with his Companions, gives him an insight into the workings of the Chapters, their business methods, and of the relations existing among the members.

"To the Chapters, in that it brings together a larger proportion of the members than usually attend, and through the presence, representatives of sister Chapters, establishes closer relations between Companions of the Royal Craft.

"These visits have been a source of great pleasure. The large numbers who meet me everywhere, the interest manifested in the proceedings, the good fellowship that prevailed, the excellent work done, leads me unhesitatingly to say that Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction was never more effective than at this time. The attendance in the Metropolitan district was unprecedented."

He ruled that a Chapter by-law disfranchising at an election of officers a member in arrears for dues was in opposition to the Constitution and therefore void.

The status of a Companion from a foreign juris-

diction, where the intermediate degrees are not worked, is given very clearly in the following decision :

“Q.—Can a person who has received the Royal Arch degree in Ireland be affiliated by a Chapter in this State?”

“A.—From the papers sent me, it would appear that the person alluded to in the above question, was made a Royal Arch Mason in Connor Chapter, No. 189, working under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, that said Connor Chapter went out of existence in 1877. By the certificate of the Grand Registrar of said Grand Chapter, he was in good Masonic standing at that time. So far your way is clear. But as I understand the practice of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland, it is not necessary that a candidate shall receive the Mark Master Mason's degree in order to become a Royal Arch Mason. It is true the Mark degree is conferred under the authority of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland, but it is not compulsory before receiving the Royal Arch, while the degrees of Past Master and Most Excellent Master are unknown to them. My decision therefore is, that he must receive such of the Royal Arch series as he has not already received before he can be affiliated. Section 69 of the Constitution gives you full power to confer them without charge. After conferring these degrees on him, you would be justified in affiliating him on the certificate you have received from the Grand Registrar of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.”

He gives a very interesting account of a visit to the Masonic Home at Utica.

“An atmosphere of cheerfulness and happy contentment fill the place; every provision has been made for the comfort of those under our charge. Rooms for older persons, both male and female, are provided where they may enjoy social intercourse, and nothing is omitted which would help the days to pass pleasantly. An amount of freedom is enjoyed that no other institution affords; it has been made a home in every sense. I was deeply interested in our boys and girls who are here, being trained and fitted for usefulness in after life. I was informed by the Superintendent that some have already gone forth to take their place among the working forces of the world, and that good positions have been secured for them. Those I met were the boys and girls we meet every day, full of life, with happy faces, and ample room to exercise both lungs and limbs. We went through every part of the buildings, not a speck of dirt anywhere, the dormitories were airy and bright, the rooms set apart for the sick, cheerful and sweet. The dining-room, large and well-ventilated, tables clean and tastefully arranged, the food of excellent quality and variety, well cooked, nicely seasoned, and served so as to satisfy the most fastidious taste. The school-rooms were furnished with all necessary furniture and other appliances. The careful thought which has been given the institution was manifest everywhere. I came away rejoiced with my visit, proud of our Home, doubly proud of the Great Fraternity whose heart conceived and whose hands built this great charity.”

He congratulated Grand Chapter on the action of

the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templars in enacting "That a candidate not affiliated in Lodge or Chapter is not eligible to receive the Orders of Knighthood, and that hereafter voluntary non-affiliation in Lodge or Chapter for six months shall deprive a Knight Templar of membership in his Commandery."

Apathy in some of the Chapters he attributed to two causes: Want of punctuality in opening, and the ignoring of old Companions in the matter of assisting in the ceremonies. "They sit merely as onlookers until they lose interest and absent themselves from our meetings." He suggested to Excellent Companions that they draw into the work every one possible, utilize all the talent at their command, make every one feel that the interest of the occasion is due largely to them, that there is something for all to do, and that their help is needed. You will find in a short time that you have an intelligent working body, and a reserve force to rely upon in case of need.

The reports of Grand Secretary Fox and Grand Lecturer McGown were replete with interesting information.

Grand High Priest Webb was chosen by the Companions for a third term, but gracefully declined re-election.

The election of Grand High Priest pending, the venerable Companion, John T. Palmer, one of the representatives of Orient Chapter, No. 138, by unanimous consent, cast a ballot for his son, the Deputy Grand High Priest.

The matter of Chapters disfranchising members at the annual elections who were behind in their dues was considered by the Jurisprudence Committee, which agreed with the Grand High Priest. But they also recognize the by-law to be one of a character which has many examples in other Chapters. Such by-laws have for their purpose the prevention and cure of an evil widely spread throughout the jurisdiction, and constantly increasing. The Grand Secretary, in his report,

has called it to the attention of the Grand Chapter, and shown how great a menace it is to the welfare of the institution. The Committee recommended that the Constitutional clause be amended to read as follows :

“Section 34. Every member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote, and shall be eligible to any office in the Chapter ; except such member, who may have been by the by-laws of the Chapter, denied the right to vote or hold office by his failure to pay his dues for the term prescribed in such by-law.”

New South Wales and Victoria received formal recognition.

An eloquent tribute to the distinguished dead was contributed in the report of the Committee on Memorials, presided over by Grand Chaplain Murray, who later delivered a magnificent address on “A second centennial of the Grand Chapter of New York”—a paper displaying much beautiful thought and deep research. Although still circumscribed in space Companion Gardiner gives us another rich treat in his report on Correspondence, and little escapes his eagle eye. To Canada for 1898 he devotes three pages liberally quoting Grand Z. Walsh. He again extols the work of inspection in Canada.

“The usual reports of the Grand Superintendents follow, which always possess matters primarily of local interest, but of much importance to the Craft generally. We have, heretofore, made liberal quotations therefrom, but our fettered condition now will prevent again indulging.”

The report of the Executive Committee on the condition of Capitular Masonry is a very extensive and able paper, submitted by the Chairman, Companion George J. Bennett (also Chairman Foreign Correspondence Committee). We cannot refrain from extracting the concluding sentences even at the expense of overstepping our contracted limits.”

His quotations are numerous and, restricted as he is, interfere with much of the valuable and instructive comment he favored us with in days when the Grand Chapter of the Empire State did not run to economy in good works.

John W. Palmer, Brooklyn, Grand High Priest.

Christopher G. Fox, Buffalo, Grand Secretary.

North Dakota.

Chapters . . 13.

Members . . 926.

The ninth Annual Convocation was held at Fargo, June 23rd, 1898. Grand High Priest, David E. Morgan, congratulated his hearers that "harmony prevails within our membership, and between this Grand Jurisdiction and all other Grand Jurisdictions."

He granted dispensations for Chapters to confer degrees without waiting the required time before balloting upon the petitions, and did so upon what he deemed good and sufficient reasons. In one case this was done to enable brethren to receive the Chapter degrees before leaving the State as soldiers. This power he admits should be exercised with caution, "but to do so, to insure to those leaving us at their country's call the benefits and privileges of this Order would seem justifiable beyond question."

His visit to General Grand Chapter at Baltimore impressed him with the extent and heartiness with which the Marylanders dispense hospitality.

The indefatigable Grand Secretary is still labouring at his card system of registration, and as necessity is the mother of invention, Companion Thompson's ingenuity has been successfully put to the test.

"With the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery there will be practically about 7,300 cards to transcribe and if this work had to be done by hand, as the work thus far has been done, it would be a physical impossibility for any person to make the transcription and comparisons in one year. For the past three years I have been working upon an appliance to a typewriter by which duplicate cards can be written by it. The great desideratum was to get a typewriter that would directly force the ink from the ribbon into the cards, and there is no typewriter as manufactured which will do it, and I have experimented with nearly all of them, and those that I have not experimented with have noted their construction and know that it cannot be done. I have about perfected my invention, and with it will be able to facilitate the work many times over hand printing."

A presumably good portrait of Companion Thompson is given with the proceedings, and a brief study of it must proclaim the original to be a thinker and a genius.

The Committee on Grievances, etc., reported that there was nothing to grieve about.

The appointment of a Grand Lecturer, as recommended by the Grand High Priest, was decided on, Chapters requiring his services to pay the expenses incidental to same.

1899.

Fargo was again chosen for the tenth Annual Convocation, held 22nd June, 1899. M. E. Companion Geo. H. Phelps, whose fine open countenance beams out of one of the pages, presided and started out with a cheery "I am glad to see you all."

He stated that in compliance with the desire of Grand Chapter he had appointed M. E. Companion Sylvester J. Hill, of Fargo, as Grand Lecturer.

"He informs me that no call has been made for his services. This indicates either great knowledge or dense ignorance among the Craft. I trust the former."

Among those who have been called away he notices "the name of one who, perhaps more than any other one, was instrumental in the organization of the Grand Chapter of the Territory of Dakota."

"R. E. Thomas J. Wilder, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the Territory from the time of its formation in 1885, holding that office until that Grand Chapter divided into the Grand Chapters of North and South Dakota, and as the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of North Dakota from its organization until his resignation in 1893, passed away in the 67th year of his age, at Spokane, Washington, October 25th, 1898."

Grand Secretary Thompson is still "on the cards."

"During the year, in conjunction with the Grand Lodge and the Grand Commandery, I purchased thirteen trays to be used by Subordinate Chapters in holding the membership cards."

Thirteen trays! What about the other "spots?" Yet it isn't all play, these cards.

"The work has been pushed as fast as possible and a great amount of work done. The details of obtaining isolated data are tedious and arduous. As soon as the work is completed, the trays with the cards and index books, will be sent to the several Subordinate Chapters."

"We must speak by the card or equivocation will undo us."

The Grand Lecturer proposition on the old lines not being a success, it was decided that in order that the Chapter might realize that there was such an officer, the latter be directed to visit each Chapter once in the present year, and that Grand Chapter pay his expenses.

A fifty-cent per capita tax was also decided on "For the purpose of providing money with which to pay the Grand Chapter's share of expenses of finishing the offices of the Grand Secretary in the Masonic Temple at Fargo."

A jewel was presented to the retiring Grand High Priest.

"The surprise being so great, Companion Phelps was speechless for a moment, but, recovering his equanimity, he eloquently and feelingly expressed his appreciation of the unexpected and handsome token of the regard of his Companions."

George L. McGregor, Fort Totten, Grand High Priest.

Frank J. Thompson, Fargo, Grand Secretary.

Nova Scotia.

Chapters . . 14.

Members . . 740.

Lunenburg had the honor of the twenty-ninth Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, on the 7th June, 1898. Dr. Donald Darrach, M. E. Grand High Priest, told the story of his official year and from his visitations he gathered that

"Never has the Royal Craft been held in higher estimation at home and abroad.

"More interest is taken in the impressive and beautiful ceremonies. Companions and Chapters are emulating who can best work and best agree; better business methods are applied to the management of the financial affairs of the Chapter, and though there is room for great improvement in some cases, yet perfection in ritual, accuracy in record and promptness in business transactions, is the general aim, and the glorious principles of the Institution are more clearly elucidated year by year."

He issued a number of dispensations; among others, to wear Royal Arch regalia in a procession on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee.

Nearly all the Chapters seem to have been visited, if not by the Grand High Priest, then by his representatives, who submitted reports of their observations.

The report of the "Board of General Purposes," in *re* Substitutes and Regalia was presented. Fifty-three jurisdictions were asked the following questions and forty-four of them replied :

"1.—Does your Grand Chapter allow the use of Substitutes ?

"2.—If so, how many ?

"3.—Is it necessary to have a dispensation from the Grand High Priest before using Substitutes ?

"4.—Has your Grand Chapter or your Grand High Priest, otherwise expressed any opinion for or against the use of Substitutes ?"

The Board decided to recommend to Grand Chapter that the following be added to the governing clause :

"And no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be allowed to use more than one substitute without a Dispensation from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest."

And in a jurisdiction where candidates are not so numerous as in many of the forty-four which deigned to reply, it may be expected that applications for dispensations will be frequent.

The recommendation of the Board in the matter of regalia provided for an apron similar in design to that adopted in England and Canada, but except for Grand Officers present or past, there is no sash. The jewel of office in Grand Chapter is to be suspended from a purple collar, in subordinates from crimson.

The Committee also asked for an expression of opinion as to the desirability of resuming the Report on Foreign Correspondence. The report was adopted.

Grand Secretary D. H. Campbell presented his first report as such. His closing paragraph voices a complaint that is not confined to Nova Scotia :

"I regret that with two or three exceptions I am unable to say a good word for the Secretaries of our Subordinate Chapters ; these Companions have apparently got the idea that any time will do to send in the returns, forgetting that it is impossible for the Grand High

Priest, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary to make up their Reports until the returns are all in.

Thomas Trenaman, M.D., Halifax, Grand High Priest.

D. H. Campbell, Halifax, Grand Secretary.

Ohio.

Chapters . . 149.

Members . . 15,512.

The eighty-third Annual Convocation, held at Cleveland on the 27th of September, 1899, was presided over by one whose name is masonically familiar in western Canada, and if his elevation to the exalted position of Grand High Priest was as satisfaction to his Companions of Ohio, it was none the less so to the brethren on this side of the border who have learned to love and esteem him. M. E. Companion Brenton D. Babcock, an excellent portrait of whom accompanies the "Proceedings," delivered a characteristic address. He paid affectionate tribute to the memories of the late Enoch T. Carson and Grand Secretary Kiefer.

Referring to his visitations he says :

"I am of the opinion that the visitation of subordinate Chapters by your Grand High Priest is conducive of good results to these Chapters, and should be encouraged in all reasonable ways,"

and recommended an appropriation to that end.

His appointment of Companion Edwin Hagenbuch to succeed Grand Secretary Kiefer, was confirmed by Grand Chapter.

Commenting on the results of the system of district inspection, he says :

"Inspection has also developed the further fact that there is an element in many Chapters that has but little appreciation of the true intent of the ceremonies of conferring Masonic degrees, and of the ennobling influence the ritual's and ceremonies, when properly rendered, should have upon the mind of the candidate. The Mason imbued with the idea that the most important of all things to be accomplished is to make the candidate believe that the moment he crosses the threshold of the room where the ceremonies of initiation are to be conducted, that moment his personal safety, and perhaps his life, will be jeopardized, is no more fitted to take a part in the ceremonies than one who has never entered the door of a Masonic lodge room. Masonry is most

beautiful in its symbolism, and throughout all its teachings deviates not from those taught in the sacred words of the great I AM. In the ceremony of initiation nothing should be permitted that will lead the mind of the candidate away from the important truths and the ennobling sentiments which are the predominant features of the ritual."

His decisions and other official acts were largely of local interest.

From the report on Necrology is extracted the following tribute to the late Grand Secretary :

"Among the many Masons of Ohio who have deservedly attained prominence in Masonic history, he alone presided over all four of the Grand Masonic bodies of the State and discharged the duties of every position to which he was called faithfully and to the approbation of the fraternity. But the greatest of his Masonic works and the crowning glory of his Masonic character is portrayed in the history of that great charity—the Ohio Masonic Home. He was closely connected with the design when it was contemplated to make it dependent upon the Grand Lodge alone. He solicited contributions, collected funds and spent much time and labor to forward the enterprise, and when in 1872 it was abandoned and he returned money collected, he may have been discouraged, but his great heart was in the work, he believed it a Masonic duty and did not despair ; and when in 1888 the effort was renewed, Companion Kiefer was one of the committee of the Grand Lodge to confer with like committees from the other Grand bodies. The conference resulted in the establishment of our greatest charity—the Ohio Masonic Home—and the realization of his hopes."

Under conditions which command our deepest sympathy Companion S. Stacker Williams, to whose affliction we referred in a previous report, presents again a remarkably interesting review of the proceedings of other Grand bodies. Of the difficulties he had to contend with the following gives a faint idea :

"We had recovered the sight of our eye, got nearly over the rheumatism, was somewhat better of paralysis, and was beginning to feel pretty good generally ; we were walking home about *two weeks* ago, we struck a *very icy place*, our feet flew from under us, and we fell—yes, fell hard on our right hip. No bones were broken, but the injury to the muscles will keep us in our room for many weeks to come. We are now reviewing the tenth Grand Chapter proceedings. Nearly all of the work we have done *in bed* propped up by pillows. To-day we are occupying a large, easy, reclining chair, which came in on Christmas day."

He opened with an exhaustive history of the Capitular craft in Ohio from its origin, a paper that should be of valuable import to the Companions of that jurisdiction.

Four pages of his excellent report he gives to Canada for 1899, the greater part devoted to the Grand Z's. explanation of the Ontario "healing" process and which he regards as of some importance.

"We sincerely hope that our Companions in Canada will soon see the end of this *so-called Grand Chapter*. But a short time ago these brethren (?) were members of an organization in opposition to the Grand Chapter of Canada—an organization not recognized by a legal Chapter on earth. We know nothing of the character of these applicants, but wherever there is a clandestine body claiming to be Masonic we know how zealous they always are to make members—too zealous for the quality of the material accepted. We commend the Grand High Priest for his zeal in seeking the end of the trouble, and especially do we commend him for pausing when in sight of danger. A little time is sometimes a good thing, and we hope it will prove so in this case."

Of the Grand's Z's. work he has this to say :

"The system of visitations adopted in Canada is very complete, and if all Grand High Priests would watch their whole territory as M. E. Companion Walsh has, no Chapter would be a laggard without being found out.

"The report of the new Scribe E. is a full and complete account of the transactions of his office, and is conclusive evidence that the Grand Z. did not err in making the appointment.

"The report of the Correspondent is again by the new R. E. Grand Scribe E., and will bear all that we said of it last year.

It is just as we are closing our labors that Ohio's proceedings come to hand and we are thus debarred from giving much of Companion Williams' opinions and deliverances, all of more than passing value. We again pray that the All Wise in His great mercy will restore our gifted Companion to health and strength. He closes thus :

"We have had to struggle against odds, even a portion of this report had to be written while in bed supported by 'mechanical appliances.' But thanks to a kind Providence, the use of a little medicine, and a large amount of encouragement and patience we have about overcome such trifling complaints as rheumatism, vertigo, a lame hip, etc. But the old offenders, paralysis and sun stroke, continue with me."

O. P. Sperra, Ravenna, Grand High Priest.

Edwin Hagenbuch, Urbana, Grand Secretary.

Oregon.

Chapters . . 26.

Members . . 1,312.

Death found a shining mark in Oregon in this eventful year. At the early age of 37 and just nine months after his election as Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion Henry S. Strange was called within the Eternal Veil.

"When, at the closing of the thirty-eighth Annual Convocation, only a brief year ago, he offered from the east of the sanctuary the incense of a pure and contrite heart, bade us adieu with warm hand-clasp and sincere 'Godspeed,' we little thought that the brave, bright man, in the prime and vigor of life, with heart full of hope, good cheer, noble aspirations and love of his companions, was parting with us to meet us no more in this earthly tabernacle. Companion Strange was a man of bright intelligence and of considerable literary and scientific attainments. He had won the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens at home and wherever known. He was an exceptionally bright and zealous Mason, a most diligent and devoted member of the Royal Arch, and a consistent, earnest Christian gentleman, an honored and active member of the Presbyterian church. The fatal malady with which he was assailed caused months of the most excruciating agony, but he bore up with Christian fortitude under his physical sufferings, and murmured not when the final summons came. He went as a man 'prepared to meet his God.'"

Such is an extract from the tribute to his memory included in the address of R. E. Companion Wright, Deputy Grand High Priest. He also announced the death of M. E. Companion George M. Stroud, Past Grand Master and Past Grand High Priest, one whose voice was for many years valued in the councils of his brethren.

The address, delivered at the 39th Annual Convocation, held at Portland, on June 12th, 1899, was comparatively brief and mainly of local interest.

In the Grand Secretary's report we find the following:

"I also have to report that I have been unable to dispose of the regalia of the defunct Chapter (No. 13). It is still boxed and in a safe place (except from moths). This property is in the hands of Companion Sam May, of Harrisburg, as Custodian for the Grand Chapter, and consists of the following articles:

Any Chapter needing fine regalia can get a bargain in purchasing it."

"D H. top of column, next reading matter."

A resolution of sympathy with Past Grand High Priest Bayley in his prolonged illness was unanimously adopted, as was a motion to appropriate one hundred dollars towards his aid.

The appeal for recognition from the Grand Chapter of New Zealand was successful.

The following resolution was adopted :

“That this Grand Chapter deems it obligatory upon every Royal Arch Mason to be a member of some Chapter, and deems it un-Masonic for any unaffiliate Royal Arch Mason to reside in the jurisdiction of a Subordinate Chapter without becoming a member thereof, or contributing regularly an amount equal to its customary dues; and should any unaffiliated Royal Arch Mason neglect or refuse so to do for more than one year after he shall have resided within the jurisdiction of a Subordinate Chapter, he shall not be entitled to Chapter privileges : Provided, however, that this rule may be relaxed by Chapters when the inability to comply is manifest, or in the event of an application for affiliation having been refused by the Subordinate Chapter in whose jurisdiction such non-affiliate may reside.”

Query : Suppose there is within the membership of that Chapter one whom the unaffiliated for good reasons does not care to associate with, is he then guilty of un-masonic conduct in not making application ? Further, being thus tainted has he a right to retain his membership in the Blue Lodge ?

Companion J. M. Hodson retains his seat at the round table. Long may he adorn that circle. His report sparkling as of yore, includes Canada for 1898 and 1899.

Noting the Grand Z.'s suggestion of a General Grand Chapter for Canada, he says :

“We would suggest to them that we have one already in running order, over a hundred years old, and that it would save them lots of trouble and annoyance just to join that. Of course, Companion Bennett will object, and if they were to join us he might kick, but that would be all right. He would be justified.”

Well, it strikes us as within the possibilities that we wont be given the opportunity to “kick.”

He humorously gets after us on “the Capitular world” idea, tells us of the United States possessing the

oldest Grand Chapters and the first independent Chapters also—all of which is admitted. But he still hesitates to acknowledge that, “system” apart, the Royal Arch degree was a few years older than the first independent Chapter and was fashioned in England. Moreover, we indulged in a blush when we read, too, some thirty years ago, that the ingenious fashioner was a compatriot—“Rest his sowl!”

“While we love, respect and almost revere many of the great characters of other countries who have been patrons of the fraternity, whenever we wanted to enjoy the systematic, philosophical, genuine, simon-pure article of Free-Masonry in any department, we always had to come home—and Brother Bennett knows it, too.”

Oh no! Having had many years experience of both we are enabled to disagree with our good Companion. He should read Gen. Corson Smith, of Chicago, on the “genuine article.” Anything we might say in that direction might be considered to savor of partiality. But as a sample of where the “genuine, simon-pure article” without any spread-eagleism or brass band accompaniment may be found, we present him with the following, taken from a Masonic journal with which he is doubtless familiar, the *Trestle Board*, of San Francisco:

“The *Freemason*, of London, Eng., is justly proud of the great work accomplished in 1898 for English Masonic benevolence, the total receipts having reached the sum of £161,975 18s 3d, of which the Boys’ School obtained £126,176 19s 1d, the Benevolent Institution £19,170-4s 4d, and the Girls’ School, £16,478 14s 10d. In 1892-1898, inclusive, or seven years, the three institutions received the great sum of £579,839 14s 8d. When to this is added the sum of the Grand Lodge, the provincial and the individual charities, the total amount shows the immenseness of English Masonic benevolence.”

“That’s the kind of “home” work that has the “genuine” ring about it, and in a country too that cannot boast of having the oldest Grand Chapter.

He is a doughty defender of “Masonry’s pillar of strength,” the O. E. S. Well, as long as he keeps it to his side of the border we won’t envy him, even a little bit.

Reviewing 1899, he rightly says of the proposal to go back to the old minimum fee:

"There are a few things that should never be found on the 'bargain counter,' and while we do not believe in making any department of Masonry a rich man's institution, one who cannot afford to pay \$20 had better stay out. It reminds us of the sign we once saw in a barber shop, 'If you can't raise ten cents, raise a beard.'"

He observes that there were nine of the twenty-five Grand Officers in their stations. Several of the absentees who received appointments as acknowledgment of their faithful services in and out of their private Chapters, reside at distances of perhaps two or three thousand miles, and the walking is not good at that season. The jurisdiction covers a slightly larger area than that of Oregon, and Canada has no pay roll. After "lambasting" us in the previous review, he applies in this the following salve :

"Companion George J. Bennett, who is also Grand Scribe E., gives us one of the best reports that has reached our table, and we can most heartily endorse nearly all his positions. Where we disagree, his fraternal style takes all the sting away, and we enjoy him all the same."

To our remark that the desire of some jurisdictions to induce ordained ministers to make application was a matter for mild surprise, he adds :

"We never could account for it on any other basis except that it was like the Washington 400, when they invited Fred. Douglass to attend one of their receptions, because they wanted somebody to give 'color' to the occasion."

He again quotes us on our objection to having a feminine organization tied up to Masonry, and says :

"Which may be true, but, Brother Bennett, we have in Oregon a Grand Matron that could give either you or me both cards and spades, and yet beat us so far in the game of an installation service that we never would line up against her again. We have seen her perform, and never wanted to retire to the anteroom for a smoke while she was talking, and yet we have prided ourself as an installing officer in the days gone by."

Now, what's the use in arguing with a man so "far gone" as that. We will now await developments.

"Disguise our bondage as we will
'Tis woman, woman rules us still."

W. T. Wright, Union, Grand High Priest.

Jas. F. Robinson, Eugene, Grand Secretary.

Pennsylvania.

Chapters . . 121.

Members . . 17,459.

The customary quarterly Communications preceded the Annual Grand Communication held at Philadelphia on December 27th, 1898. At the former most of the statistical and other work was dealt with.

Petitions for new Chapters at Carnegie and Stroudsburg were received in March and it was announced in June that warrants had been issued.

In September the Finance Committee and Grand Secretary submitted their reports from both of which it is gathered that Pennsylvania is doing a great and good work. From the latter we learn that the jurisdiction has three Mark lodges distinct from the Chapters, and possessing a membership of 942.

The Jurisprudence Committee in December reported that nothing had arisen to disturb the serenity of their elegant leisure, "everything being in such perfect accord and harmony."

The request of New Zealand for recognition was reported adversely.

At the Grand Annual but little was done save reading the report of the outgoing Grand High Priest, reporting by-law amendments, hearing the address of the newly elected and the announcement of appointments.

A decision of the Past Grand High Priest is not without interest as it explodes the old 'exact halfway by air line' theory. He decided

"That a Chapter nearest the place of residence of a petitioner is the nearest by line of travel and not by a straight line. A Brother presented a petition to Monroe Royal Arch Chapter, No. 281, at Stroudsburg. It was suggested to them that they should make inquiry of Lilly Chapter of Mauch Chunk. The matter was referred to me and I made a thorough investigation, and found that there was very little, if any, difference in the distance between his place of residence and Stroudsburg or Mauch Chunk, yet he could travel on a level road to Stroudsburg and return home the same evening, but between his place of residence and Mauch Chunk was a very high range of mountains, and the only way that he could get to Mauch Chunk would be to travel through Stroudsburg, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, a distance of over 100 miles. I, therefore, decided that Monroe

Chapter could receive and act upon his petition without making inquiry of Lilly Chapter."

M. E. Companion M. W. Jacobs address was timely and sensible.

"I am a firm believer in the settled policy of this Grand Chapter to steadfastly adhere to our ancient Landmarks, and to firmly resist the introduction of innovations, which, however they may please the passing fancy of their inventors and their inventors' friends, tend only to mar the beauty and symmetry of our institutions and to shake the confidence of our members in our Fraternity as an 'Ancient' as well as an 'Honorable Fraternity.'"

Some of those shining innovations will take note and govern themselves accordingly. There is no Hindoo Theology or Black Hawk mystery in Pennsylvania. So Schools of Instruction and special instructors are employed, and this system the Grand High Priest promises to encourage by his example. He deprecates the practice of conferring all three degrees on the same candidate on the one occasion :

"The degree of Royal Arch Mason is the completion of Ancient Craft Masonry, and our fathers sought it as the completion and rounding out of their Masonic education. Hence, logically and historically, the Chapter should exist for the further instruction of Symbolic Masons, and not as a mere stepping-stone to any higher body."

"I do not overlook the fact that our fathers considered the degree of Royal Arch Mason the fourth degree in 'Ancient Masonry,' and that in their days the 'preceding degrees,' in which the candidate for Royal Arch honors was required to be 'versed' were the three Symbolic degrees. But subsequently, to conform to the views of the Companions of other jurisdictions, the degrees of Mark Master Mason and Most Excellent Master were introduced into our Chapters, and they are now in our Capitular system degrees preceding the Royal Arch."

As in previous years the reviewing of Foreign Correspondence is divided up among five able Companions, and Canada again falls to Past Grand High Priest M. H. Henderson. He introduces the report with a one or two truisms, not the least of which is the following, with which all must coincide :

"In reading the various volumes that come to us we notice the many questions that have been discussed so often and are still undecided, and we ask ourselves, Will they ever be? and is it any use to continue threshing the old straw? Neither side has been able to

convince the other, and yet we live and prosper while strenuously advocating our respective beliefs. . . .

"If we all went to the same church, voted the same political ticket, and had the same opinions on all the affairs of life, we would conclude the millenium had come, when Satan, representing all discordant elements, is to be bound, and peace, harmony and brotherly love are to prevail for a thousand years. We doubt if we are ready for that blissful period, and in the meantime our discussions will go on; but while we disagree, we need not quarrel, and there is no reason why our controversies should not be conducted with charity for all, with malice toward none."

Noting Companion Laughlin's leaning towards the Eastern Star organization he says, and in it we descry a whole volume of comment :

"He has peculiar ideas as to what constitutes a Masonic body, and thinks Chapters of the Eastern Star should be recognized as such. We refrain from comment, but would like to know what he would recognize next."

Canada, for 1898, receives a couple of pages of fraternal review and is generous to the reporter. On the presence of the charter he says to Companion Singleton :

"Ever since warrants were first granted, which was about 1717, it has been an unwritten law that they must be openly displayed in the body to which they give life and authority. This law, or custom, if you prefer to call it so, we believe to be universal. It is sustained by our ablest and wisest Masonic jurists, and no one of equal ability has yet expressed a contrary opinion. It is no inconvenience to keep the warrant displayed, and we never knew of an officer who objected to it, and we think all this talk is a great commotion about nothing. We will waste no more time discussing this well-settled question."

Michael William Jacobs, Harrisburg, Grand High Priest.

Charles Carey, Philadelphia, Grand Secretary.

Quebec.

Chapters . . 11.

Members . . 536.

An excellent portrait of Grand Z. B. Tooke, embellishes the volume of printed proceedings for 1898. Grand Chapter's twenty-second Annual Convocation was held in the Chapter Hall of the Masonic Temple, Montreal, on the 24th January. Among other good things the Grand Z. said :

“ Living in a country abounding in peace, happiness, and general contentment, perhaps at no time has the strong spirit of confidence in the future of our native land been more apparent, and while we as Masons are thankful for and appreciate this happy position, we hope the unity that exists among us may be caught up by the Nations of the world generally, (but more especially by those of the Anglo-Saxon race), in order that all may join fulfilling the mission, that is generally recognized as their heritage, ‘ Peace on Earth and Good Will among men.’ ”

“ As an important part of the British Empire, we rejoice over the grand victory obtained by Illustrious Brother Lord Kitchener and his gallant “ companions ” at Khartoum. Another addition to past achievements ; another stride in the great work of civilization ; and as the noble soldier expressed himself in Edinburgh, when the freedom of the city was conferred upon him, “ The object of the Nation will be to give justice to the people we have conquered, to teach them industrial habits, as well as to abstain from acts of violence and dishonesty among themselves, and as education and civilization go hand in hand, may the former be established at once in order that we may uplift the moral and social standing of the people.’ Fraternal desires are these indeed, and how expressive of the teachings of our Royal Craft. May the Nation, the Soldier, and the Mason soon accomplish at least part of so glorious an undertaking.”

“ To our Companions residing in the great Republic south of us we offer our sincere sympathy, as well as congratulations. Many who have passed the portals of the chapter have realized the horrors of war, a condition of affairs that must appeal to every heart, and to every soul, and to every mind. To the relatives of Companions bereaved through the loss of dear ones, as well as to those who from any cause are suffering by the same calamity, we extend our sympathy ; and to the nation who has taken so prominent a position in assisting the spread of Christianity and civilization throughout the world, we offer our congratulations in connection with the recent victorious result achieved.”

The year was a quiet one and he had little of interest to chronicle. Although he made two trips to Europe he was enabled to visit a number of the Chapters, and reported well of them. He acceded to the request to waive jurisdiction in the following cases :

“ To the Grand Chapter of Canada, for two brethren residing in this Province but nearer Ottawa, in favor of Carleton Chapter of that city.

“ To the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to receive an application from a brother in one of the subordinate Chapters, who lately resided in Montreal, but who had now made Halifax his permanent abode.”

The Grand Superintendents presented very satisfactory reports, as did the Grand Scribe E., and Grand Treasurer.

A new Chapter in the Eastern Townships is foreshadowed.

M. E. Companion Chambers is the reporter, and his work is worthy of inspection. He apparently inspected that of Canada, for he is kind enough to say :

“His criticism is pungent, his judgment sound, and his style bright and incisive.”

To Colorado, who was inclined to be rough on lodges as such, attending church, he says :

“It is a good thing for Masons to go to church as individual church members and it is a good thing for them to go to church as Masons too. The man who is a good Mason must needs be a good member of his church. But this does not in any sense imply that he should be a religious fanatic or even a zealot. His Masonry, if he has learned it aright, has taught him to respect the religious views and opinions of his brethren. He will not be any the less ready than a non-Mason of liberal tendencies often is, to accompany his brethren, upon some particular occasion, for a Masonic service, to some other church edifice than that in which upon ordinary occasions he himself worships. It has been our privilege to attend many Masonic church parades, and never have we heard a word uttered by the officiating chaplain that could be construed as offensive by any of those present belonging to other denominations.

“In the very rare case of a brother being found who has conscientious scruples against entering a church to which he does not belong, we believe it better that he should refrain from attending than that the entire lodge or chapter should be prevented from seeking the privileges of uniting together in praise, thanksgiving, and prayer, and from publicly testifying to scoffers that Masonry is the handmaid of religion. If Masons do not share the same theological views, neither do they all believe in the same book of Divine revelation. As this latter fact is no reason why a Masonic traveller should refrain from visiting a lodge which has upon its altar a different volume of the divine law from that upon which he has taken his Masonic vows, neither is the former one a valid excuse for the discouragement of Masonic church parades.”

H. LeRoy Fuller, M.D., Sweetsburg, Grand Z.

Will. H. Whyte, Montreal, Grand Scribe E.

South Dakota.

Chapters . . 27.

Members . . 1,492.

The city of Yankton saw with pride the tenth Annual Convocation on the 15th June, 1899, for

“In this beautiful city was organized the first Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the then Territory of Dakota and we are near the

shrine of Ancient Craft Masonry in our young state. There may be those in our presence who participated in some of the historic events that this Convocation and other meetings is intended to commemorate. Here, on the 6th of January, 1890, after five years of pleasant fellowship with our companions of North Dakota, were installed the first officers of this Grand Chapter, under separate jurisdiction. We have passed our first decade and can look back upon our record with some degree of satisfaction."

In these reminiscent sentences did the Grand High Priest recall his Companions to their Chapter's progress and successful entry into "long pants." He reviewed the eventful year in which he himself had not been idle :

"We have seen our country teach the nations of the world how to champion the cause of a down-trodden people. Island empires have been freed from centuries of barbarous customs and cruelties, we have rejoiced over victories won in a righteous cause, and have welcomed the tidings of peace and renewed comity with a defeated Old World power."

"Now who'll tread on the tail o' me coat?" But, as we were saying, all is white-winged peace. "The excitements of the year are happily past, and we are left to pursue the even tenor of our way." And he made "ten or a dozen" visits, and reported well of the Chapters.

M. E. Companion West makes a valuable suggestion. It has probably been made before, but it is none the less timely.

"Each Subordinate Chapter, when there is no work, should take a part of the time at each Convocation to read and discuss the Grand Chapter proceedings, together with the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. This practice faithfully carried out would educate the Companions, and also save the Grand High Priest considerable annoyance from answering simple questions."

He has two clauses in his address, headed "State of the Order" and "Good of the Order." To an old foggy who knows nothing of any fraternity or organization but the only true one, these phrases come in the nature of an emetic. Pray keep them where they belong. They may sound very nice when applied to the "Order of the Oriental Constellation," or anything else you like; but, oh! do not rob them of their own little playthings. We can do without them.

He closes with the usual appeal for the traditional garment, that "broad mantle," that has done duty so often in the past.

The veteran of Iowa, M. E. Companion Theodore S. Parvin, was an honored visitor and gave an interesting twenty minutes' talk.

The Grievances Committee reported "all well."

M. E. Companion L. G. Levoy is, we are glad to observe, still in the Correspondent's sanctum.

"We therefore have again made an attempt, although surrounded by business cares, supplemented by the office of Grand Master, and in addition having become a benedict, has rounded out somewhat of a busy year."

Busy indeed! But he got there just the same, and furnishes a report like a merry sparkling rivulet running from source to finish in the sunshine of—shall we say?—his new happiness. We wish him a long life of joy and prosperity.

He had Canada for two years under observation, and notes a change. Thanks.

"We congratulate him on his preferment to the office of Grand Secretary, a position we are sure he will fill to his own honor and the satisfaction of the Craft."

Benj. F. Ives, St. Lawrence, Grand High Priest.

Geo. A. Pettigrew, Flandreau, Grand Secretary.

Tennessee.

Chapters . . 68.

Members . . 2,714.

The record of the proceedings proper of the seventieth Annual, at Nashville, on the 23rd January, 1899, are embraced in just sixteen pages of the volume just to hand. Grand High Priest Goodloe appropriates five of these for his address. Noting the age of Grand Chapter he says:

"As applied to human longevity it is the time allotted to man to remain upon the earth. To say the least, we may pause, ponder and reflect. What have we accomplished in that time? Where are those who organized the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Tennessee? In all probability there is not one upon the earth; but as to the present status of those loved ones the wisest cannot tell."

Unquestionably true. Yet we join with him in the hope that they enjoy eternal sunshine.

Among his dispensations was one to confer all the degrees on a candidate "at one and the same communication," and sapiently adds:

"This, of course, was unnecessary for the plain reason that Chapters have such a right and need no dispensation."

Yellow fever and consequent quarantine regulations interfered with visitations. He thus pays tribute to a worthy departed Companion:

"On the 27th of October Companion A. M. Hughes, Past Grand High Priest, had his membership involuntarily removed from all Chapters, both Grand and subordinate of a Terrestrial nature, and assumed a more durable, in fact, fixed membership in a jurisdiction having no end. Perhaps it was improper to say 'involuntary'; surely we do not mean that he was unwilling to make the change; oh no, but the transfer was in cheerful accord with the will of an Omniscient High Priest. No such character ever dreaded the change."

The Committee on Ways and Means reported "that there is sufficient money on hand to meet the expenses of the ensuing year," and in consequence the per capita tax was not increased.

Companion Henry H. Ingersoll furnishes the able report on Correspondence.

"Your Correspondent starts upon his mission with the sincere hope that he may be able to fulfil your wishes and make an impartial and faithful report with liberal and fraternal spirit, that the Craft may receive profit thereby and the interests of Royal Arch Masonry in Tennessee may be advanced and its welfare promoted. He hopes to include the Proceedings of all American Grand Chapters; and if the names of Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines shall not be found in the list, it will not be from lack of interest in these new possessions, but their absence will probably denote the condition of Freemasonry and of other adjuncts of American civilization in these islands of the seas."

And if the Tennesseans are in any respect dissatisfied with his bill of fare, they must indeed be hard to please.

The pretensions of the A. and A. Rite are to him as a red rag to a bull. Under Arizona he eases his mind thuswise:

"'Cathedral' indeed! And is there, then, no limitations to the pretensions of this foreign nobility? Have we nothing in America

that they may not appropriate with impunity? Is the Church itself, as well as Freemasonry, to be subject to its 'parts of speech'? Will Companion Laughlin tell us in what diocese he enjoyed this 'cathedral' privilege, and who was the Scottish Bishop thereof, and was his throne made of granite or kale? American Freemasonry conducts its votary through secret doors, up winding stairs, along rough and rugged ways to the portals of the Church, and, like the true handmaid, says: 'Thus far have I served you and brought you to the door of the Master, whom ye shall find within. Enter and enjoy the things prepared for those who love him.' The Scottish Rite pauses at no threshold, however sacred; sees no Master within the hallowed portals; but, entering with head erect and royal mien, takes the 'cathedral' even, and says: 'L'eglise c'est moi: I'm the whole thing.' O spirit of ancient York, return and write again in letters of golden light on the western heavens for the eyes of American Freemasons: 'A MASON SHALL BE STEADFAST AND TRUE TO HOLY CHURCH.'"

Companion Long of Indiana resented his strictures, and among other things had said of the Scottish Rite in rejoinder:

"In fact it is pre-eminently an American Rite, and with comparatively greater claims to American occupation than can perhaps be asserted for the Royal Arch of his love. Being also the most extensively disseminated Masonic organization in the world, he will hardly succeed in its destruction."

Thereupon Companion Ingersoll reached out for his favorite club, rolled up his sleeves, and with characteristic Tennessean ardour goes after the man from the Hoosier State:

"This frank avowal is entirely consistent with the conduct of our Scottish Brethren and Companions in many of the States, and deserves the serious consideration of all thoughtful Masons. 'No man can serve two masters.' This is as true in Masonry as in religion; and, believing as he does that the Scottish Rite has greater claims upon Americans than the American Rite, it is consistent that the American Rite shall be made subservient to the Scottish Rite; and all who think so should act accordingly.

"But some of us are still loyal to America and the American Rite and the Holy Royal Arch. We have chosen this as the object of our Masonic love, and, true to it in Tennessee, we refuse to allow any foreigner to steal away our effections. We still stand for the old York Rite as adopted in America, and see no use for two concurrent systems. One Rite is enough. We believe in Lodge and Chapter and Commandery. More than a hundred thousand Knights Templar, more than two hundred thousand Companions of the Chapter, and nearly a million Blue Lodge Masons, all duly organized in every State and Territory, are proof of the American system; and in Tennessee we intend to stand by our colors, and our regret is that any American Freemasons anywhere give preference to the Scottish Rite for America. Consistency and reason may require of Brother Long and his loyal

Scottish coadjutors that they assume jurisdiction of the three symbolic degrees on behalf of this 'most extensively disseminated Masonic organization,' and that we abolish our Grand Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies, and swear allegiance to the Scottish Rite. This we shall not do in Tennessee, but continue to maintain our loyalty to the American system and to believe that all Scottish Rites are merely 'side degrees,' and never allow them to destroy the peace and harmony of American Masons in Lodge and Chapter."

Reviewing Canada for 1898, he peruses Grand Z. Walsh's address and says, it

"Proves him not only a zealous, active Mason, but a true disciple of Brother Kipling ('Companion,' as he calls him); and what English poet of this decade is worthier to have disciples than Rudyard Kipling, who, in full flood tide of genius, reached the ears and hearts of English-speaking people everywhere in his immortal 'Jubilee Hymn?'"

Of the reporter's effort of that year he says:

"Companion George J. Bennett submits a Correspondence report of 135 pages devoted exclusively to Capitular Masonry in the United States and the Dominion of Canada, which makes one feel how closely we are knit to our Companions across the lakes—how we are one in heart and sympathy, in hope and aspirations, as well as in speech and worship. His comments on extracts from Brother Henderson's report of visitations at Knoxville, Chattanooga, Greeneville, Morristown and Memphis are immensely entertaining, and as curt as witty. With genuine Canadian conservatism, too; he objects to our American way of crowning the Masonic edifice with the degrees of knighthood, but gives unqualified assent to the Tennessee, Correspondent's views of the 'new woman' in Masonry; and his name ought to appear as prominently as the Grand Janitor's at least upon the back cover of the Proceedings of Canada.

E. S. Millar, Johnson City, Grand High Priest.

W. A. Clendenning, Nashville, Grand Secretary.

Texas.

Chapter . . 146.

Members . . 6,494.

In this jurisdiction of many committees and demised Chapters the year, as usual, was a busy one. "I am glad that we are here," said Grand High Priest T. H. Haynie to his Companions at the forty-ninth Annual Convocation held in Houston, on December 6th, 1898. He also remarked that "Surprising things have happened."

"The most notable are, viz.: That the *Maine* was sent to the bottom of the sea. War was declared with Spain. Then the un-

paralleled victory of Manila, and the surrender of Santiago. The destruction of Cervera's fleet, and the final triumph of American diplomacy, by which other nations have seen that we are, indeed, a united people, *no North, no South, no East, no West*, but that we *all* sing the praises of a Dewey, Schley, Sampson, Hobson, Wheeler and Fitzhugh Lee."

And when it is remembered that a great nation stood spell-bound with admiration at the coolness, displayed by one of its humble seamen we pause to ask, 'What's the matter with the late Bill Antony?'

"I think the thing they call Renown,
The unsubstantial vapor,
For which the soldier burns a town,
The sonneteer a taper—
Is like the dust, which, as he flies
The horseman leaves behind him;
He cannot see its clouds arise,
Or, if he does, they blind him."

Dispensations were issued for four new Chapters, our others were Constituted, and demised ones resurrected. Five Chapters reported themselves dead.

He had three pages of decisions, mostly affected by local regulation. The Deputy Grand High Priest also reported a decision of his own.

The Grand Visitors' reports were evidence presumptive that the Chapters were fairly well superintended.

Three hundred dollars were appropriated to meet the needs of a deserving Companion.

A resolution to apply all the surplus moneys in the treasury after paying current expenses, to the fund for the Widows' and Orphans' Home was a little too much for the Finance Committee, which reported adversely.

The Committee on Work were in attendance a fortnight or so prior to Grand Chapter, instructing delegates seeking information. This cost Grand Chapter a matter of \$400. The four members put in a "Supplemental Report," for two days examining applicants for certificates, four of the latter being issued. The Committees' services in this case were valued at \$80.

The list of the "Demised Chapters" that is, Chapters that were and are not, now numbers 72. A Chapter

in Texas which fails to meet for three months in succession is liable to lose its charter.

Companion Terrell's report on Correspondence covers nearly a hundred pages and makes most interesting reading. He had Canada for 1898 under notice, and extracts the jubilee references and quotations from the Grand Z's address. He pays a brief but appreciated compliment to the reporter. He concludes :

"The skirmish with Spain has but served to strengthen the ties between the faithful of our own land, and amid it all we have not forgotten our duty to our Brethren even of a hostile flag.

"May peace and prosperity be your portion.

"A prominent District Deputy in Texas has said : 'If you are a good Mason, you will love your wife, serve the Lord, and pay your debts.' And we would add : If you haven't got a wife, get one.

"Follow this advice, and you will be both happy and wise."

1899.

The City of Houston again had the honor of Grand Chapter's annual gathering. Grand High Priest thus opens his address :

"COMPANIONS : The crimson stains of morning scarce greet our eyes, ere the shadows falling athwart our vision tell us that night is again with us—and thus swiftly have passed the days of another year.

"It is with joy and gratitude, I again greet you all in Grand Convocation.

"The war-cloud that hung so dark in our horizon a year ago, has been dispersed and we now see it but 'as a cloud in the West, big as a man's hand.'

"May it never come nearer to us.

"The flood-gates of heaven, that opened above a large section of our State during the summer, have closed, and the promise for the future is bright.

"Three new Chapters will apply to you for Charters, and as many more, that have been in the darkness of the tomb for years, will seek for the reviving power of this Grand body."

The death of the Past Grand High Priest Haston Twomey was most touchingly referred to :

"Next to his church, the Royal Arch Chapter claimed his loving care.

"Few men in Texas have conferred more degrees or met with more of the Companions.

A Chapter applied for permission to install publicly and outside their chapter-room.

"My dispensation was returned on July 18, 1899, with the information that the said officers were so installed at the Opera House, in Corsicana, in the presence of a large audience, and that some two hundred guests participated in the concluding ceremonies at the City Hall.

"I was glad of the opportunity to issue the above reported Dispensation, and can only wish that I could have issued more of the same nature."

There was "a good house," but no mention is made of the specialties or varieties. Two hundred guests however, "participated" in "the concluding ceremonies at the City Hall," but of their nature deponent sayeth not. A great day for the Craft, truly!

Here is something to ponder:

"In looking over the work of the year, I find much to encourage and some few things to wish changed.

The most harmful feature I have noted, is the disposition on the part of some to make 'bargain counter' attractions of our degrees.

"Our State for several years has been overrun with 'organizers.'

"Every conceivable form of Lodge, or Society, by every conceivable name, has been presented to our people. Every inducement, from Insurance Clause, Sick Benefit and Burial Provisions, down to a 'good old time,' has been exploited to get together, both men and women, as Lodges, Tribes, Circles, Chapters, Chapels, Oases, etc., (and incidentally 'put money in the purse' of the organizer).

"The attractions of 'Cheap Price' for the privilege of becoming a 'charter member,' of 'offices' for 'leading citizens,' etc., have been offered to a gullible public. The result has been that some of our good Companions have feared for Royal Arch Masonry, and have thought that we ought to offer stronger inducements to Master Masons to 'come and be one of us,' and the first thing suggesting itself has been a 'reduction in fees,' the pocket being considered the tender spot in the average American.

"All sorts and kinds of plans have been devised to evade the plain letter of the law. I feel satisfied that this has come largely from ideas gained by contact with some of the numerous creations noted above, and a failure to properly appreciate the value of what we have."

One thousand dollars was appropriated to the Widows' and Orphans Home.

Companion Terrell's sixth report on Correspondence is one of his best. He gives over two pages to Canada for 1899, and is kind enough to extract liberally, and to say a kind word of the reviewer. Would that we could reproduce some of the good things he gives to his Com-

panions, but owing to receiving the proceedings at a late day we are compelled to stop.

W. L. Burdett, Paris, Grand High Priest.

Geo. Lopas, Jr., Floresville, Grand Secretary.

Vermont.

Chapters . . 26.

Members . . 2,786.

The address of Grand High Priest Orlando W. Sherwin to the eighty-second Convocation, held at Burlington on the 16th June, 1899, comprises nine pages of the printed proceedings, and seven of these are devoted to obituary notices. Among the deaths he mentioned that of Homer M. Phelps who was Grand High Priest in 1881. He pays tribute to a good Companion, a worthy son, and a brave soldier :

“Fort Dummer Chapter, No. 12, mourns the loss of Comp. George Adin Brooks, who was the first volunteer to fall in the Spanish-American war.”

“In the fight at El Caney he was in the skirmish line and was struck by a bullet exploding a cartridge in his belt, the ball of which struck him in the leg. He suffered fearful agony, and was heard to say, ‘Tell my mother that I died at my post.’ His comrades took him to the rear but he died on the way. With other brave boys his body was brought home this spring, nine months after his death, and the funeral was held in Orange, April 9th, 1899.”

He did not make any visitations, sickness interfering with his desire to do his duty in that respect.

“But it was a great comfort to me that the meetings were in charge of such a close ritualist and thorough instructor as E. Comp. Grand Lecturer Montague.”

It must have been. In the matter of decisions he was not bothered during his term, no questions having been presented. But although he did not visit nor hear from the Companions, his knowledge of their requirements was acquired by some means.

“So far as I am able to ascertain the number of working members in the several Chapters is too small. A few are obliged to do the work. Also the attendance is smaller than it should be. It seems to me that one reason for this condition of things is the fact that few Royal Arch Masons learn anything about the degrees. Every Royal

Arch Mason who has thoroughly learned the degrees and studied their symbols knows that they are even more interesting than the lodge degrees. I think that a direct way of increasing interest in Capitular Masonry and bringing Chapters to do better work, would be to require every member to learn a part or the whole of each degree he takes in order to make him eligible for the next. Also, that every Royal Arch Mason be required to learn a certain portion of the seventh degree before making application for membership in higher bodies."

Of the condition of Capitular Masonry in Vermont he ventures an opinion, and under the circumstances one is inclined to commend his caution.

"In closing I will say that I think the past year has been one of usual peace and prosperity in our order."

The Grand Lecturer, however, is more direct, and at the risk of exceeding our limit we give one or two extracts from his timely report:

"We are so accustomed to hear in various reports and addresses that 'the cause of Capitular Masonry is flourishing in this Grand Jurisdiction,' that I suppose we have all come to believe it and pay but little attention to the question whether this statement is fact or fiction. I must confess to a rather pessimistic view of the subject. When District Deputies find themselves unable to arrange for a district meeting because of the unwillingness or inability of the officers of Chapters to confer degrees, and when officers of Chapters do not take interest enough in Capitular Masonry to attend the annual meetings in their respective districts, it looks to me as if the cause was anything but flourishing."

* * * * *

"If we required a corresponding degree of proficiency to that required by the Grand Lodge, we should have Chapter Masons who could at least give the pass words and signs and might perhaps be able to pass an examination on the different degrees which would enable them to gain admission into a neighboring Chapter. This study would surely lead to some interest in the degrees, and instead of having our Chapters filled with members who are Masons in name only, we might have a comfortable sprinkling of genuine Chapter Masons. With an interest of this kind once started I believe there would be an inducement to increased attendance at Chapter meetings."

* * * * *

"Another fault lies in the selection of officers. Early in Masonry we are taught that 'merit is the just title to our privileges.' Do we always exercise proper care that 'our honors are not undeservedly bestowed?' The practice which obtains in some Chapters of a regular promotion from one office to the next higher is liable to occasionally work to the detriment of the Chapter."

* * * * *

"Possibly, in our striving for exact ritual correctness we sometimes lose sight of the underlying principles of our profession and of

the lessons we are, or ought to be, striving to teach. Although, as one has aptly said, correct ritual work is, the setting of a beautiful picture, and should always be worthy of it,' still we should never allow the setting to hide the beauty of the picture."

The Grievances and Appeals Committee was happy :

"No grievance of any kind has been brought before us. We therefore report that peace and harmony prevail throughout this Grand Jurisdiction."

An admirable report on Correspondence is furnished by M. E. Comp. Marsh O. Perkins. Canada for 1898 is included and most fraternally noticed.

"Comp. Walsh seems to be possessed of the idea that a General Grand Chapter for all Canada would be of advantage to Royal Arch Masonry in the rapidly growing and developing Dominion, acknowledging difficulties, however, in the promotion of such a union. Our brethren to the north of us had better let well enough alone, and unless we mistake their feelings they will."

To some comments of the reviewer on the non-recognition of an English Royal Arch Mason by United States Royal Arch Chapters, unless he first swallows the sugar-coated pill in the shape of certain degrees he never before heard of, he says :

"Well, no, 'the United States of America is not, after all, the entire universe,' but the United States of America, Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans, *et al.*, is of sufficient size and importance to state on what terms a professed Royal Arch Mason may visit one of its capitular bodies. The requirements imposed are not burdensome or irrational, and we are confident Comp. Bennett thinks so, too, at the bottom of his great fraternal heart. But for the sake of a discussion, which he takes to as kindly as the conventional duck to water, he professes to assume that a Grand jurisdiction may not define the terms on which a visitor from another jurisdiction may be admitted to a seat in a subordinate. His position is altogether too illogical to be tenable, and too weak to be seriously maintained "

"Illogical and weak, eh!" Well that's one way of closing down, but before we part let us suggest to Companion Perkins that to be consistent he should remove England and Ireland from that "List of Grand Chapters in Correspondence with the Grand R. A. Chapter of Vermont," and printed at the close of the Proceedings. Is it logical to recognize a Grand Chapter and shut the door upon a Companion carrying its credentials?

Now we have never questioned the justice of the

regulations as applied to Companions for affiliation, but directing it at the body universal is apt to lead to possible unpleasantness. We are similarly situated in Canada, but lacking that cast iron barrier, we welcome the visiting Companion from across the sea, but if he comes to stay and expresses the desire to affiliate he is informed that to do so there are certain matters to be communicated prior to being enrolled. This course may be illogical and weak, but it is at any rate fraternal,

“Faith, fanatic faith, once wedded fast
To some dear, falsehood, hugs it to the last.”

Chas. A. Calderwood, St. Johnsbury, Grand High Priest.

W. G. Reynolds, Burlington, Grand Secretary.

Virginia.

Chapters . . 42.

Members . . 2,710.

Ernest Louis Ide, the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, presided over the ninety-first annual Convocation in the historic city of Richmond on the 8th November, 1898, and confined himself strickly to business in his comparatively brief address. He made a number of visitations, had few questions to decide and formulated a plan to aid the “Masonic Home.”

The latter is in the nature of a personal appeal to the Chapters to set apart a portion of the canadidate's fee. A few of the Chapters responded. His criticism of the Home is not calculated to create enthusiasm.

“I heard much adverse criticism of the management of the “Home.” It is urged that the children are not taught so as to become useful members of society after they leave the “Home;” that the boys ought to be taught some trade, or learn to till the farm in connection with the “Home;” and that the girls ought to be instructed in cooking and needle work. As it is now, when the children leave the “Home” they have but scanty means of support. Apart from all this is the habit of industry instilled in them if they were taught to labor and made to look forward to take upon them a part of the duties and toils of useful members of society. I do not mention these things in a fault-finding spirit, but to give to the managers of the “Home” a wide-spread opinion of the Masonic craft of this State.”

He recommended that the Grand Secretary's office in the Masonic Temple be relinquished, the rent, \$250, being too high.

Two Chapters were instituted and another started U. D.

The Finance Committee "kicked" successfully against the action of Grand Chapter in '96 by which the Grand Treasurer was authorized to pay to the Masonic Home, "Any balance on hand after paying all other appropriations."

Schools of Instruction under the Grand Lecturer did excellent work for the Chapters. The District Grand Lecturers were equally assiduous.

New Zealand's application for recognition was referred to the Grand High Priest, "with power to act when in his judgment he deemed it proper to do so."

The Grand High Priest had recommended that for good reasons it would be beneficial to change the law requiring a candidate to pay the whole amount of the fee before receiving any of the degrees. The Committee concurred, adding :

"Aside from the inconvenience to candidates to pay the whole amount, as it frequently takes several months to obtain all the degrees, circumstances might arise which might prevent the candidate from receiving what he had paid for. The old custom of requiring about half when the Mark and Past degrees were conferred and the balance before conferring the Royal Arch we think was a good one."

This is liable to cut two ways. May it not happen that a candidate who receives the P. M. under conditions that govern in so many Chapters will conclude that he has had about enough, but of course if Virginia^o is clear of the circus element, it is all right.

To Companion Chas. A. Nesbitt was again entrusted the duty of review, and he serves up a dainty report although he pleads illness 'and other disturbing causes' for not doing better. He has a brief notice of Canada for 1898, in which he says:

"The correspondence report is again presented by Comp. George J. Bennett, in which he reviews forty-four Grand Chapters, some for

two years. We should like to quote the many good things in this report, but space forbids. Virginia receives fraternal notice, and we thank him for his kind words said of our report.

T. E. Schwartz, Luray, Grand High Priest.

James B. Blanks, Petersburg, Grand Secretary.

Washington.

Chapters .. 18.

Members .. 1,171.

Tacoma was again the selection for the meeting place of Grand Chapter, and the fourteenth annual Convocation was opened in ample, form on the morning of June 10, 1898, by M. E. Comp. Carmi Dibble, Grand High Priest. All the Chapters but one were represented.

The address was brief. He granted a number of dispensations but was unable to make any official visitations.

‘When honored by this high position one year ago I promised to visit every Chapter in the state if fortune favored me a little. The prosperity that has been so marked in some portions of our state has not been extended to me.’

The jurisdiction however had a peaceful year :

“Peace and harmony prevails throughout our entire jurisdiction and I consider it a matter upon which I can congratulate the Companions, that there has been a marked growth and warmer fraternal feeling throughout this jurisdiction.”

Grand Orator Caton’s *fin de siecle* effort takes up seven closely printed pages and must have impressed his hearers. The theme, “What the Century has done to develop true manhood,” was ably treated. Winding up he says :

“It is thus seen how the grand lessons of the past are appropriated at the present time, and thus it is that Royal Arch Masonry frames in symbolry lessons that are held up before the mental vision in living, shining letters of purest gold whom none that care for honor and the attainment of true manhood can for a moment afford to ignore, or fail to heed.”

One other and very important lesson is learned from the heroic struggles encountered in the rebuilding of the temple. The results to zeal when tempered by discretion. An Indian overhearing a white man in making some strictures on zeal, remarked : ‘I don’t know about having too much zeal, but I think it is better that the pot

should boil over than not to boil at all.' 'Zeal and discretion, when linked together, are like the two lions which supported the throne of Solomon, and he that hath them both is like Moses for mildness and like Phinehas for service. As wine is tempered with water, so let discretion temper zeal.' And this is one of the grand and noble lessons taught in symbolry by Royal Arch Masonry."

The Committee on Chapters U. D. presented the following comprehensive report :

"We, your Committee on Chapters U. D., beg leave to report that we find nothing to report."

And the record says it was accepted.

A Committee was appointed to procure and exemplify to Grand Chapter at its next annual Convocation the ritual as adopted by the Grand Chapter of California.

Grand Secretary Blalock being confined to a certain limit is unable to furnish the report he formerly favored his Companions with. It is certainly their loss. With the space at his disposal, however, he presents an excellent review of the Grand Chapter proceedings to hand. Under Canada for '98, he says :

"The report is by Companion George J. Bennett, who reviews 44 Grand Chapters. Washington for 1897 receives four pages, the larger part of which is a good natured slap at us and our report, but we will be compelled to sit still and 'watch the procession go by' this time and reserve our ammunition for a future occasion, when we are not limited as to space."

Fair warning. All we hope is that his Companions will give him the elbow room he craves. In the meantime we will throw up a few earthworks.

1899.

M. E. Comp. John Moore presided over the fifteenth annual Convocation at Tacoma on the 9th and 10th of June, 1899, and indicated that over Washington there hung not a single "dark" cloud.

"Contentment has characterized the Royal Craft in our Jurisdiction. No complaints have been brought before your executive, and there are no grievances in his hands to be submitted.

He mourns the death of R. E. Comp. Harrison W. Eagan, Grand Chaplain.

Very properly he refused a dispensation to a Chapter to change its place of meeting temporarily to another town.

"The reason given for the request was that there are a great number of Masons in Everett, who are desirous of becoming Royal Arch Masons, but who do not care to leave home for the purpose of receiving the degrees. It seems too much like putting a Chapter on wheels, and if such a precedent is established there are other Chapters in this Jurisdiction equally worthy of receiving the same privilege, and we would soon have the humiliating spectacle of Chapters traveling about in search of the most productive fields."

The Jurisprudence Committee, however, did not at a later period hold to this sound opinion, but recommended alternate meetings in the two places.

Comp. Moore, unlike many of his confreres, kept the inevitable patriotic outburst for his closing:

"The year past has been one of glory to our nation in the interest of humanity, and as the war clouds clear away in the far-off islands where our brave and noble sons are defending the flag of the best government on earth under the guiding hand of that great statesman, Companion William McKinley, the nations of the world must learn that the supremacy of the federal government is one of the settled questions of history, establishing us in the eyes of all nations, not as a loose confederation of independent states, but a compact and powerful nation, where freedom shall reign and the oppressed be free."

The "work" recommended by the General Grand Chapter was adopted and the Grand Secretary was instructed to call in the "Black Hawks."

Grand Secretary Blalock is, as of yore, the Correspondent and compiles for his Companions a very interesting and instructive report. Canada's proceedings had not come to his table.

D. Lew Paramore, Snohomish, Grand High Priest.

Yancey C. Blalock, Walla Walla, Grand Secretary.

West Virginia.

Members . . 24.

Chapters . . 1,667.

A valued and well-beloved Companion was missing from the twenty-eight annual Convocation at Wheel-

ing, on the 14th November, 1898. Past Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary Odel S. Long was not there.

"On the night of December 26th, 1897, we were shocked by the sad and unexpected message flashed over the wires that Past Grand High Priest Odel S. Long, Grand Secretary, had passed the "gates of death and entered into life eternal." As he lived, so he died—secure in the hope of a blessed immortality and a blissful eternity with the Great "I Am."

So the Grand High Priest announced West Virginia's great loss. . He requested the various subordinate Chapters to take action, and some of their tributes were eloquent and touching, that of Wheeling Union No. 1 particularly so.

"His name will live and his memory be cherished for generations yet to come. Elijah had an Elisha prepared for his mantle to rest upon, but we look in vain for some one upon whose shoulders this mantle shall rest.

"In the quiet graveyard's keeping
Odel sleeps;
While the winter snowdrift sweeping
Slowly heaps
Round the grave we made him;
God knows best,
With what aching hearts we laid him
Down to rest.

'It is easy work forgetting.'
So they say;
There is little gain in fretting
Day by day;
But the tender heartcords riven
Heal so slow;
For what patience we have striven
God doth know.

What bright hopes our hearts were weaving
All can tell;
Can you wonder at this grieving
For Odel?
That his life so full of promise
For the right
Should go out so quickly from us
In the night?

But we know that He who claimed him
Knows the best
When to take, and why He named him
For the rest;
So we take each task assigned us,
This in view,
Some sweet eventide will find us
Resting too."

Most Excellent Companion Long, who had attained the highest office in all the Masonic bodies, was born in Ligonier, Westmoreland county, Pa., Oct. 16, 1836. The full Templar service was performed at his home in Charleston. The body was then removed to Wheeling, W. Va., where the Kadosh service of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was held in St. Matthew's Protestant Episcopal church, at midnight on Wednesday, Dec. 29th, before a vast concourse of Masons and their friends. A guard of honor kept vigil with the body until next day (Thursday), when the full service of the Episcopal church was had, after which the remains were conveyed to their last resting place, beside his departed wife, in the Peninsula cemetery. His funeral was the largest Masonic one ever held in the city.

Another Past Grand High Priest was also taken away in the person of M. E. Gustave Brown.

The Grand High Priest's duties were light. He did not have a single question submitted to him for decision.

The Finance Committee reported favorable conditions also.

"Your Committee also recommends that in view of the large balance in the treasury that this Grand Chapter remit to each subordinate Chapter for the next Capitular year the sum of 25 cents for each member on their books.

"And each subordinate Chapter therefore will report to the next Grand Chapter the sum of fifty cents (50c.) instead of 75 cents per member as Grand Chapter dues."

The "Grievances and Appeals" had nothing before them.

New Zealand's appeal for recognition was sent to the Foreign Correspondence Committee as was that of New South Wales.

The outgoing Grand High Priest was presented with a jewel.

Fred N. Seihert, Martinsburg, Grand High Priest.

Robert C. Dunnington, Fairmont, Grand Secretary.

Wisconsin.

Chapters . . 74.

Members . . 6,083.

"Little did we think, in fact the wildest flight of a Jules Verne imagination would not have dreamed, what a memorable date in the history of our country our last opening day was to become. February 15th, 1898, at 2 p.m., we met. How startling and how shocking were the head-lines in the next morning's papers :

THE MAINE BLOWN UP—OVER 200 KILLED.

"As we look back to-day we are led to exclaim: Is it possible that that was only one year ago! Great events with greater results than any one then dreamed of have taken place, and what would seem natural to be the history of years, have crowded themselves into a few months."

Thus spoke Grand High Priest Frank C. Jackson, in opening his address to the Companions at the forty-ninth annual Convocation in Milwaukee, on the 21st February, 1899.

Most feelingly he referred to the death of Past Grand High Priest Hayhurst and Comp. A. W. Hammond, Grand Principal Sojourner.

He issued a dispensation to institute a new Chapter at Richland Center.

Among his decisions the following will probably be found interesting:—

"A brother being advanced to the M. M. degree, took the obligation and complied fully until a request was made of him, when his conduct clearly indicating an intention to be "smart" or "cunning," and believing it but justice to our Chapter, I ordered him to be taken out of the room. After the close of the M. M. Lodge he came to realize that he had acted unwisely, and the Companions having no desire to further punish him, the question is, can I give him the rest of the work of that degree or must he begin all over and proceed as if never advanced? How shall it be done?"

"I replied as follows :

"This is purely a local matter and entirely within your own control. If *you* are satisfied to have him go ahead, and there is no objection on the part of the Companions, I should inform the candidate, have him present himself at such meeting as you designate. Have him properly prepared as before, conducted back into the room, beginning at the point where the work was previously discontinued, and go from that as you would have done had not the incident occurred."

"I took occasion to also say, and desire to repeat here, that I think cases like this are too often *promoted* by the Companions trying

to get *too much fun* out of conferring the degrees, all of which is entirely wrong."

Two cases of invasion of jurisdiction engaged something of his attention. One complaint was from Illinois, the other from Iowa.

He furnishes an illustration of the absurd possibilities of the P. M. degree under existing conditions. He was asked :—

"What is the custom of conferring the Past Master's degree on Masters elect. Should it be conferred in full or not?"

"In view of the two positive declarations upon this subject in our regulations, the last one reading 'a Lodge of Past Masters cannot confer the degree on a Master elect of a symbolic Lodge,' I was surprised to learn that it was the practice in some jurisdictions for Masters elect to apply for the Chapter to confer the P. M. degree."

A characteristic Report on Correspondence is the work of Comp. Swain, who for sixteen years has been the successful reviewer for his jurisdiction. Inspecting Canada for 1898, he expresses doubt of the feasibility of Grand Z. Walsh's suggestion for a Canadian General Grand Chapter.

He quotes the Grand Z.'s decision in the case of a Chapter affiliate, who was not a subscribing member of a blue lodge, and says :

"One decision is reported, which, although approved, does not strike us as being correct. In 1895, a new Constitution went into effect, which contains a dependent membership clause. He ruled in the case of a Companion, who was a non-affiliate in his Lodge when he affiliated with the Chapter, and has so remained.

"Of course, then, this applies to all non-affiliates in the Lodge, when the Constitution went into effect. We do not think it good law."

The clause does not provide, as Comp. Swain assumes, for dependent membership. At the time of application the candidate must be an affiliated Master Mason, but the enactment does not go to the length of insisting that he shall continue so in order to maintain his membership in the Chapter. A distinction with something of a difference.

Like him of Vermont, he quotes us on the subject of the intermediate degrees, and the visiting R. A. Companion, who has not received them, he says :

“With all due respect, we think the argument rather weak. We do not tell the Royal Arch Mason he shall be excluded. We simply say to him: ‘We have degrees of which you know nothing, which are likely to be talked about in our Chapter, consequently before we take you in, we will give you those degrees.’”

But, “with all due respect,” you do exclude the Royal Arch Mason, nevertheless, if he does not take advantage of your “simple” privilege, and it is probable that ninety-nine out of a hundred would not demur. The hundredth man, however, happens to be one with a conviction. He has been taught that Masonry consists solely of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason and Royal Arch degrees, and conscientiously believes it, even disdaining the Mark degree, which in his country is optional. The “degrees of which he knows nothing” he does not want, they were not in his curriculum. The Masonry he possesses embraces to him all that there is, and to hear that before he can visit a Chapter he must absorb a little further mystery on the side, naturally creates a feeling of surprise if not of resentment. The Companion cannot take those degrees, because he honestly believes that if they were necessary to Masonry he would have received them under the ægis of his own Grand Chapter. Yet Companion Swain adds:

“If the Royal Arch Mason refused this slight concession to our laws, we should say there were other good reasons incident to the character of the man, why we should not admit him.”

This is a phase of argument so unlike Comp. Swain’s usual generous and fraternal treatment, that we refrain from further comment. His obedience to existing laws is most praiseworthy, but his fealty blinds him to even a possible blemish in those laws, and he is not alone in that respect.

His conclusion is racy and more like himself:

“There is no new question of importance in the Masonic world, though some of the old questions continue to be of interest. More or less of the papers presented are overflowing with patriotic references to the late war for humanity. And we catch glimpses of the coming question which is to divide the parties of the country—expansion or non-expansion. Some of our enthusiastic fellow-citizens of the former class seem to be indulging in dreams equal to that of the enthusiastic

American citizen at a dinner party about the period of the close of the civil war, who, looking at the future, proposed the toast—"The United States—bounded on the north by the aurora borealis, on the south by the procession of the equinoxes on the east by primeval chaos, and on the west by the day of judgment."

Jesse D. Carr, Oskosh, Grand High Priest.

John W. Laffin, Milwaukee, Grand Secretary.

General Grand Chapter.

An important body of the Capitular Craft in the United States, which meets triennially. Its membership is composed of the three principal officers and Past Grand High Priests of the several Grand Chapters which acknowledge its sovereignty. General Grand High Priest Geo. L. McCahan, of Maryland, presided at the hundredth anniversary, held at Baltimore on 12th October, 1897, and opening said:

"As the representatives of the mighty host, which, throughout this great land, bears allegiance to this General Grand Body, we are assembled to legislate for the interests of the Royal Craft, and incidentally, to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the formation of the General Grand Chapter."

Referring to its origin he said:

"One hundred years ago, and in this month of October, a small company of Royal Arch Masons, seven in all, representatives of three Royal Arch Chapters appointed 'to meet with any or every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York,' met in Boston, Mass., 'to deliberate on the propriety and expediency of erecting a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the said States.' They agreed, unanimously, that it was 'highly expedient for the regular government of all Chapters within the said States, which exercise the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons, that there should be a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons established within those States.' This body became, within a short period, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States of America."

This ancient organization issues charters to places where a Grand Chapter does not govern, and so "expands" as far distant as China, Chili, Hawaii, and the

Republic of Mexico. All the State Grand Chapters except Pennsylvania and Virginia, acknowledge allegiance.

"Allegiance" is the word, because the General Grand High Priest used it, and so did M. E. Companion G. M. Acklin, in presenting a gavel. Rather anomalous that a "Grand" body should acknowledge a superior, but so it apparently is.

"In this gavel, which I present to the General Grand Chapter, there are four pieces of wood, one piece contributed each by the States of Maine, California, North Dakota and Florida. As between the two extended points of the compass lie the most valuable tenets of our profession as Masons, so between the extreme geographical points here represented there is to-day a great army of Masons owing and loyally paying allegiance to the General Grand Chapter."

The celebration of the event was complete and successful—banquets, receptions, excursions, historical addresses, commemorative poetic effusions of real merit, bronze medals, and a visit to Washington and the White House, where each enjoyed a Presidential hand-shake, and where Mr. McKinley graciously accepted a centennial medal as a souvenir of the occasion.

Canada was not far distant at this celebration, for it is recorded :

"Comps. J. Ross Robertson and Richard B. Hungerford, Past Grand First Principals, and Comp. Alexander Patterson, Past Grand Superintendent of the Grand Chapter of Canada, were announced in waiting for the purpose of visiting the General Grand Chapter, whereupon the General Grand High Priest appointed Comps. Theodore S. Parvin and Josiah H. Drummond a Committee to introduce the distinguished Companions, who were admitted, presented by Comp. Parvin, and cordially received by the General Grand High Priest, to which an eloquent response was made by Comp. Robertson."

A number of interesting biographies and portraits of past rulers of the body are included with the bulky volume. Also the Constitution and a digest of decisions, of which we present a few samples and leave comment to the reader :

"A Master Mason who has lost the index finger of the right hand at the second joint may be exalted a Royal Arch Mason.

"A Mark Master Mason whose right knee is without motion, perfectly stiff, is unable to conform literally to the requirements of the work, and cannot receive the Chapter degrees.

"The acceptance of a candidate who has an artificial leg, but who can conform to the requirements of the work, is permissible.

"A blind Mason cannot receive the Chapter degrees.

"Candidates who are crippled may be accepted when their maim does not amount to inability to comply with our rites and ceremonies."

And now we close our labors with Companion Brewer's beautiful "Centennial Hymn," dedicated to the General Grand Chapter :

"Thou who in majesty ruleth the nations,
 Eternal in age, unbounded in space,
 To whom the centuries are but as stations
 On the long highway of nation and race,
 Bless our assembly called from all sections,
 Companions and Chapters, a national band,
 Take Thou the old and bless the new century,
 God of Freemasonry ! stretch forth Thy hand !
 God of the Royal Arch ! guide with Thy hand !

"From every quarter in conclave we gather,
 And from every State glad tidings we bring,
 Companions we are, e'en dearer than brothers,
 Bound by the Royal Arch, closer we cling.
 Thou who art Father, Jehovah, Creator,
 Whose sceptre is justice, whose law is love,
 Praying Thy presence, Thy favor we conjure,
 God of the centuries ! hear and approve !
 God of eternity ! hear and approve !

"When in the house of affliction we gather,
 And when by the bier of our fallen we bow,
 When by the grave of the husband or father
 Blood drops of agony well from each brow ;
 When the wild cry of the widow is ringing,
 When the poor orphans their bitter tears shed,
 When sinking hearts to Thy mercy are clinging,
 God of the sepulchre ! cherish our dead !
 God of the desolate ! cherish our dead !

"When in our Chapters we call to Thee, Father,
 By that dear title no profane dare speak.
 When to that dread name, too awful to whisper,
 We bend in appeal Thy presence to seek,
 Fill with Thy glory the temple we hallow,
 Prosper our Order and stretch forth Thy hand,
 Cheering our hearts and our homes with Thy bounty,
 God of the universe ! prosper our band !
 God of the universe ! bless our dear land !"

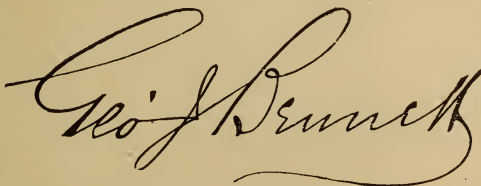
Reuben C. Lemmon, Toledo, General Grand High Priest.

Christopher G. Fox, Buffalo, General Grand Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

Alabama.....	1898	Montana.....	1899
Arizona.....	1898	Nebraska.....	1898
Arkansas.....	1898	Nevada.....	1899
California.....	1898	New Brunswick.....	1898-1899
Colorado.....	1898	New Hampshire.....	1898-1899
Connecticut.....	1899	New Jersey.....	1899
Delaware.....	1899	New York.....	1899
Florida.....	1899	North Dakota.....	1898-1899
Georgia.....	1899	Nova Scotia.....	1898
Illinois.....	1899	Ohio.....	1899
Indiana.....	1898-1899	Oregon.....	1899
Indian Territory.....	1899	Pennsylvania.....	1898
Iowa.....	1899	Quebec.....	1899
Kansas.....	1899	South Dakota.....	1899
Kentucky.....	1898	Tennessee.....	1899
Louisiana.....	1899	Texas.....	1898-1899
Maine.....	1899	Vermont.....	1899
Maryland.....	1898	Virginia.....	1898
Massachusetts.....	1898	Washington.....	1898-1899
Michigan.....	1899	West Virginia.....	1898
Minnesota.....	1898-1899	Wisconsin.....	1899
Mississippi.....	1898-1899	General Grand Chapter.....	1897
Missouri.....	1899		

Fraternally submitted,



Chairman.

STATISTICS.

As Compiled by M. E. Comp. J. H. Drummond, of Maine.

GRAND CHAPTERS.	Members.	Exaltations.	Admissions & Restorations.	Dismissions.	Expulsions.	Suspensions.	Sus. for Non- pay't dues.	Deaths.
Alabama.....	880	51	10	20	2	0	85	18
Arizona.....	263	51	5	3	0	0	0	4
Arkansas.....	895	146	23	51	4	4	44	38
California.....	5,575	365	88	55	0	0	110	123
Canada.....	5,594	500	73	112	0	....	*104	68
Colorado.....	2,525	132	41	41	0	....	*67	26
Connecticut.....	5,783	222	9	8	0	0	67	103
Delaware.....	668	35	0	5	1	0	0	8
District of Columbia.....	2,204	88	66	59	0	4	53	33
Florida.....	651	53	12	23	1	....	*6	10
Georgia.....	3,355	269	64	131	0	....	*140	62
Illinois.....	16,768	959	166	307	5	....	*476	233
Indiana.....	6,759	369	158	127	6	3	81	112
Indian Territory.....	781	97	17	41	0	....	*21	12
Iowa.....	7,482	463	167	189	2	....	*117	98
Kansas.....	5,140	307	86	122	3	4	131	66
Kentucky ..	3,049	270	48	89	1	....	*125	49
Louisiana.....	1,067	81	11	9	0	....	*36	23
Maine.....	6,286	264	27	49	0	0	53	98
Maryland.....	1,880	111	20	46	0	...	*37	29
Massachusetts.....	15,557	939	39	175	2	0	158	229
Michigan.....	13,389	617	80	148	8	8	184	181
Minnesota.....	4,916	326	49	102	1	2	72	60
Mississippi +.....	1,434	135	44	26	0	0	45	27
Missouri.....	6,924	448	129	160	4	4	202	83
Montana.....	811	67	20	22	0	....	*19	1
Nebraska.....	2,919	123	53	45	1	...	*156	23
Nevada.....	298	22	0	0	0	0	2	6
New Brunswick.....	437	23	28	11	0	0	0	4
New Hampshire.....	3,594	120	12	20	0	0	13	73
New Jersey.....	3 373	189	32	73	1	....	*67	54
New York.....	20,560	1,200	280	245	2	0	608	272
North Carolina.....	749	57	7	15	1	....	*6	10
North Dakota.....	874	71	34	12	0	....	*7	3
Nova Scotia.....	740	44	8	21	0	....	*3	9
Ohio.....	15,136	957	301	185	3	4	384	212
Oregon.....	1,295	53	25	16	1	1	9	18
Pennsylvania.....	17,459	1,088	102	151	....	....	+268	285
Quebec.....	536	34	4	8	0	....	*15	6
Rhode Island.....	2,601	112	2	7	0	0	0	55
South Carolina.....	654	59	6	9	0	....	*32	15
South Dakota.....	1,492	62	17	46	0	....	*21	14
Tennessee.....	2,714	106	40	82	1	2	40	61
Texas.....	6,374	390	175	259	6	....	*198	103
Vermont.....	2,786	97	11	22	1	....	*2	50
Virginia.....	2,710	193	51	81	0	1	88	40
Washington.....	1,154	52	38	26	0	....	*25	12
West Virginia.....	1,667	209	56	20	0	0	21	18
Wisconsin.....	6,080	344	56	99	0	....	*99	84
Gen. Gr. Chapter.....	1,491	106	24	42	1	....	23	22
	218,329	13,076	2,804	3,615	58	37	4,529	3,243

* Including suspensions for U. M. C.

+ Same as last year.

SPCL HS 719 C2 A3 1899-01

